[श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग]

मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह मांग करना चाहूंगा कि नेशनल एयरपोर्ट अथारिटी को निर्देश दिये जाएं कि एक टैक्नीकल कमेटी शीघ्र ही अहमदाबाद भेजी जाए, जो कारगो व्यवस्था की छानबीन करे और उसको अधिक व्यवस्था उपलब्ध करवाये तथा अंतिम मांग यह रखना चाहूंगा आपके माध्यम से कि भारत सरकार इस संबंध में तुरन्त वित्तीय सहायता डिपार्टमेंट को उपलब्ध करवाये ।

मान्यवर, एक तरफ अधिक सुविधायें उपलब्ध कराने के लिए इसके पहले भी कई बार इस सदन में बात आई है, वैसे हमारे हाजियों के लिए जिनकी बम्बई तथा दिल्ली से रवानगी करवाते थे, लेकिन जैसे-जैसे हमारा ट्रैफिक बढ़ता गया, उसके लिए हैदराबाद स्टेशन खोला गया और श्रीनगर से भी अभी हाजियों को रवाना करने के लिए जद्दा की उड़ान सर्विस की गई ।

मान्यवर, गुजरात की कभी से यह मांग है और मुझे यह कहते हुए आश्चर्य भी है कि जद्दा जाने वाले जो यात्री हैं हज के यात्री भारतवर्ष में सब से ज्यादा अगर कहीं से मांग आती है जो वह गुजरात से आती है और उसके बावजूद भी गुजरात के इन यात्रियों को अपनी यात्रा करने के लिए बम्बई जाना पड़ता है और बम्बई में उनका जो ट्रैफिक है, वह उसमें और भी बढ़ोतरी करते हैं ।

हमने कई बार इस मांग को दोहराया है और वहां पर ऐसी सब सुविधायें उपलब्ध हैं, जिसकी वजह से राज्य सरकार की भी यह मांग रही है और, मान्यवर, जैसा कि मैंने कहा है कि विविधि गुजरात चैम्बर आफ कामर्स ने भी इसके लिए डिमाण्ड की है ।

तो मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि सरकार फौरन ही इस बात में आगे बढ़े और उसकी छानबीन करके शीघ्र ही अहमदाबाद को इंटरनेशनल लिंक सर्विस से इसको लैस करे । धन्यवाद ।

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव (महाराष्ट्र): मान्यवर, मेरे दोस्त मीर्जा साहब ने जो मसला उठाया है, वह बहुत ही योग्य है । जहां अहमदाबाद एक बहुत बड़ा शहर है । (व्यवधान) साबरमती आश्रम भी वहां है। उसका भी लिहाज रखा जाए और इनकी मांग पूरी की जाए ।

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) CONTINUANCE BILL, 1987

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to continue the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, for a further period, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration."

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provides for the regulation of production, supply and prices of essential commodities. This act has been amended from time to time to make its provisions more effective. The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 was brought into force with effect from the 1st of September, 1982 for a period of 5 years. The objective behind the enactment of the above Act was to make the penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, more stringent for dealing more effectively with persons indulging in hoarding, blackmarketing of and profiteering in essential commodities.

The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 which is to expire on the 31st of August, 1987 also provides for summary trials to ensure effective and quick disposal of cases, setting up of special courts to expedite the process of prosecution. It has provision for a mandatory minimum punishment of three months' imprisonment and also for making the grant of bale more strict.

Sir, in view of its basic objective of effectively dealing with socio-economic offences, the continuance of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 is considered absolutely necessary. It is all the more necessary now when a large number of States are under the grip of drought and when anti-social elements in trade and industry are likely to exploit the situation and take undue advantage. In the context of the present situation, continuance of this Act has assumed greater importance and utility. The question whether the provisions of the above Act should be continued for another period of five years has been considered in consultation with the States and Union Territories who are of the view that the Act has proved useful and effective and has served its objective very well. The States/UTs. have therefore recommended that the said Act be continued so as to ensure expeditious disposal of cases and to prevent hoarding, blackmarketing and profiteering in essential commodities.

Sir, in view of the reasons stated above, the Government is of the opinion that the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 be extended for a further period of five years. I am confident that the House will extend its full support to this Bill..

With these words, I beg your permission to move that the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Continuance Bill, 1987 be considered and passed.

The question was proposed.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Minister that the present Bill has been brought to effectively prevent persons indulging in anti-social activities like hoarding, blackmarketing and various other evils of inflationary prices in essential commodities, especially when there is a drought situation in the country. We have no quarrel with the objects of this measure and we wish that this measure should succeed. But the general point I wish to raise in this matter is, as has been stated by the hon. Minister, that it is true the anti-social elements may try to exploit the situation and try to push up the prices. But the main point is that anti-social elements come into the picture only because of a regular inflationary trend in the economy. If they feel that the prices will go up and they will be able to make a profit especially on essential commodities, they will come into the picture. But when the economy is not inflationary and there is a downward trend in prices, in such a situation this kind of measure may not be relevant or necessary, because no trader, merchant or industrialist will try to hoard articles or commodities if it is fully known that the prices will come down and he will not be able to get any profit by hoarding commodity. So hoarding by people comes into operation only when there is an inflationary trend in the economy, especially when there is such a trend continuously over a period.

Inflationary economy has not suddenly come into being in India. It is there over a period of years. It may be stated that the official wholesale price index for all commodities has touched a new high of 402.7 by weekend of 1st August, representing a price rise of not less than 6.6 per cent in the four months' period since April. This has come on top of a massive price increase of over 60 per cent in the preceding 7 years. What is more disturbing is the persistent rising trend in the prices of several essential commodities. Edible oils have gone up by 21 per cent, sugar and khandsari by 14 per cent, foodgrains by 7-8 per cent, fruits and vegetables by 15-16 per cent, milk and milk products by 10-11 per cent and eggs, fish and meat by 11-12 per cent. If we take into account that at the retail end the price is 50 per cent higher than the wholesale price, the rise in commodity prices so far in the current financial year is quite alarming. This should be quite clear to the Government.

While speaking on the Budget previously I had noted this point specially. It was then said by the then Finance Minister that rising prices was not a new phenomenon for this country only; there had been inflation in many countries. At that

[Shri G. Swaminathan]

time when I was speaking in the House, I had said that Government had to be very careful in the under-developed countries, because developed countries may be able to absorb the price rise—for example, for a per capita income of over a lakh of rupees per month as in USA, if there is an inflation of 10-12 per cent per year, people wil not suffer much, but in an under-developed country where the per capita income is very low, a price increase of 7-8 per cent in essential commodities will affect the people very badly. So, it is necessary for the Government to see that the prices do not increase. For the rise in prices it is not the merchants who are generally responsible. For the rise in prices, the Government is responsible. The fiscal policy of the Government is very important in the matter of rise in prices.

The main reason for the rise in prices, according to me, is the deficit financing engaged in by the Government. I will only give a few examples of deficit financing and what is happening in this country. Between 1985 and 1986 there has been a deficit of Rs. 4,937 crores as per the latest answer given by the honourable Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation recently in the Lok Sabha. He said that there has been a deficit financing to the tune of Rs. 4,937 crores in 1985-86, to the tune of Rs. 8285 crores in 1986-87 and an anticipated deficit of Rs. 5,688 crores for 1987-88. With this kind of a budgetary deficit, naturally the Government should be aware that the prices will go up. But when this point was raised during the budget discussion by me and many honourable Members including Mr. Gurupadaswamy, the then Finance Minister and the honourable Prime Minister and Fnance Minister, both, said that deficit financing would not in any way affect the rise in prices and they had taken full care of it. But it is very clear that because of the deficit created by the Government and because the Government is not able to live within its means—consequent to that—the main reason for the inflation in economy has come about.

Sir, I may also bring to your notice that the share of revenue expenditure of the Government has grown. In 1960-61 the GDP was 10.9 per cent but in 1985-86 it was 15.71 per cent. So, the revenue expenditure has grown. Actually, when you take the increase in tax ratio in relation to GDP, it was nine per cent in 1960-61 and in 1985-86 it was only 15.1 per cent. The tax ratio has not increased commensurate to the expenditure and what happened consequently is that there has been created a deficit and the deficit has to be managed by the Government by various methods. Most probably the honourable Minister would have read the latest books by Prof. Buchanan who was a Nobel Prize winner in 1986. He has written two very interesting books. One is The Theory of Public Choice and the other is Political Application of Economics. In both these books he has said that inflation definitely is caused by deficit and democratic governments always engaged in deficit budgeting because they are seeing only what is to be done today. In a welfare economy they want to do their best; whether they have money or not they want to go about it but ultimately they end in deficit. He wants a constitutional protection against creation of deficit by the Government. He says the Constitution itself should prevent the Government from having a budget where there is deficit financing. This is the latest theory which got him the Nobel Prize. We see that whether it is the Government at the Centre or the State, because the aspirations of the people are so much, the Government wants to do so much. First of all, it is unlike a householder who has his budget according to his income. First of all he finds out what is the income and how much he could spend from his income. But how the Government proposes and puts up its budget is, first of all it wants to know how much the people want, what all the wants of the people are, then it aggregate the whole thing and then says the budget is not sufficient, it is not able to raise the tax revenue and then it goes in for borrowings or printing of currency notes. Ultimately, and naturally,

inflation comes into being and then they say that the hoarders and others are increasing the prices and they are responsible for the increase in prices. In the long-term perspective we were given four or five steps by the previous Finance Minister. It was said that four steps should be taken by the Government to avoid an inflationary economy and rise in prices. (1) Strengthening of the tax structure and its expected response to the growth of income. (2) Formulating an adequate expenditure policy. (3) Fiscal discipline which preserves a non-inflationary fiscal policy. (4) Policy on public enterprises to generate surplus. In all the four themes that have already been mentioned, which we have discussed, I am very sorry to say that the Government has not taken effective steps. In some of the things, they have failed also. They have not cut down their expenditure. They have not formulated an expenditure policy so far. They have no fiscal discipline to preserve non-inflationary fiscal policy, and they have not seen to it that the public sector enterprises generate surplus. In this kind of overall feeling that we have, naturally the prices will go up. Only passing such Acts like the Essential Commodities Act and thinking that we will be able to control the rice in the prices of essential commodities, I think, is not a good thing.

I only recommend to the Government that it is only a symptom and not the cause. They have to see what the actual cause of the inflation is and try to cut down expenditure and try to improve the general economy of the country.

However, Sir, I only approve of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Continuance Bill, and I have no quarrel about it.

Thank you very much.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्षजी मैं एसेंसियल कमोडिटीज बिल, 1987 के समर्थन में बोलने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। जहां एक ओर देश में भयंकर सूखा पड़ रहा है, देश के कुछ भागों में बाढ़ है, जिसकी वजह से देश की जनता परेशानी महसूस कर रही है, आवश्यक वस्तुओं के सही कीमत पर उपलब्ध न होने से, जो रोज उपयोग में आने वाली चीजें हैं, उनके हासिल न होने से जहां जनता परेशानी महसूस कर रही हैं वहीं उसकी परेशानी का दूसरा प्रमुख कारण यह है कि चीजें बहुत मंहगी मिल रही हैं। कालाबाजारी में मिल रही हैं। जमाखोर, जो रोज उपयोग में आने वाली चीजें हैं, एसेंसिअल कमोडिटीज हैं, उनको जमा कर के रखते हैं। अक्सर यह देखा जाता है कि किसी दुकान के बाहर जो स्टाक लिस्ट रहती है, उसका जो बोड रहता है, उसके स्टाक में तो तिल लिखा रहता है, लेकिन उसके गोदाम में वे चीजें पाई जाती हैं। इसलिये कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये कि उसके गोदाम की सही ढंग से चैकिंग हो सके तथा जमाखोर अपने मनसूबों को पूरा कर सके और देश की आम जनता परेशानी व अभाव का अनुभव न कर सके। ठीक इसी प्रकार की बात मूल्य सूची के संबंध में है। मेरा आपसे विशेष आग्रह है कि जो रेट लिस्ट दुकान के बाहर ये लगाते हैं और उसमें जो रेट ये लिखते हैं, वह निर्धारित मूल्य से अधिक रहते हैं। इसलिये कुछ ऐसी व्यवस्था सरकार के माध्यम से की जानी चाहिये कि इन दुकानदारों की रेट लिस्ट और स्टाक लिस्ट की सही ढंग से जांच की जा सके, ताकि रोजमर्रा की जो चीजें हैं, एसेंसिअल कमोडिटीज हैं, वे आम आदमी को को सही समय पर और सही कीमत पर उपलब्ध की जा सकें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि हमारे देश में 70 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा जनता गांवों में निवास करती है। यदि हम गांव के लोगों को सुख-सुविधा दिला सकें, तो भारत के अधिकांश लोगों को सुख-सुविधा दिला सकेंगे, ऐसी मेरी मान्यता है। गांवों में अक्सर देखा जाता है कि जो आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं, एसेंसिअल कमोडिटीज हैं, वे आम लोगों को उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाती हैं, क्योंकि वहां दुकानों की कमी होती है।

[श्री सुरेश पचौरी]

वहां सात दिन में एक बार एक खास स्थान पर जहां बड़ा कस्बा रहता है वहां हाट लगती है । गांव के लोग सात दिन में एक बार जाते हैं और दैनिक उपयोग में आने वाली चीजों की खरीद करते हैं । लेकिन वे चीजें उनको सही दाम पर नहीं मिल पाती हैं वे चीजें सही नहीं होती हैं। उनमें मिलावट होती है । इसलिये हमारे फूड एडल्ट्रेशन एक्ट में भी ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये, हमारे एसेंसियल कमोडिटीज बिल, 1987 जिस पर हम आज चर्चा करने जा रहे हैं, ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये कि गांव के लोगों को विशेष रूप से सही समय पर सही दाम पर सही चीज मिल सकें, बगैर मिलावट के चीजें मिल सकें । तीसरी बात जो मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं, वह यह है कि अक्सर यह देखा जाता है कि दो हजार की पोपुलेशन वाले गांव में तो दुकानें हैं, लेकिन जो सौ, दो सौ या पांच सौ की जनसंख्या वाले गांव है, उनमें केवल एक दुकान रहती है । वहां जो दुकानदार होता है, जिसे वह की भाषा में बनिया बोलत हैं, भले भी वह किसी भी जाति का हो, वह अपने मनमाने ढंग से चीजें विक्रय करता है । किसी भी रेट पर विक्रय करता है । उन चीजों की स्थिति भी बड़ी दर्दनाक होती है, बड़ी दयनीय होती है । वह कई दिनों की बासी चीजें विक्रय करता है । चाहे गुड़ हो, तेल हो, शक्कर हो, मैदा हो, आटा हो ये जो रोजमर्रा के उपयोग में आने वाली चीजें हैं, वे उसी दुकानदार की मर्जी पर होती हैं—कितनी दे, किस अवस्था में दे। अवस्था से मतलब यह है कि वह कितनी मिलावट करे । महोदय, आज स्थिति यह है कि आटे में भी मिलावट की जाती है ।....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Suresh Pachouri you can continue after lunch. Now, the House stand adjourned for lunch till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice-Chairman (Shri G. Swaminathan)** in the Chair.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं गांव के उपभोक्ता की दयनीय स्थिति का जिक्र कर रहा था । हमारे प्रधान मंत्री आदरणीय राजीव गांधी जी ने अभी जो नवीन बीस सूत्री कार्यक्रम घोषित किया है, उसमें सूत्र क्रमांक 18 में उपभोक्ता संरक्षण को रखा है, जिसमें यह व्यवस्था है, यह व्याख्या की गई है कि आम आदमी को रोजमर्रा की चीजें सही समय पर और सही दाम पर उपलब्ध हो सकें । लेकिन उसके आगे जो बातें हैं, वह इस सबको प्रभावित कर रही हैं और सन्तोषप्रद परिणाम नहीं निकल रहे हैं, क्योंकि इन सब चीजों से जुड़ा हुआ है, पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम जो अत्यन्त दूषित है जिसमें काफी सुधार की आवश्यकता है । यद्यपि जो फूड एन्ड सिविल सप्लाई के मिनिस्टर हैं, भगत जी, वह काफी सजग और सचेत हैं और इस सब के बारे में काफी चिन्तित भी हैं । वे अपनी ओर से प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम में जो यथासंभव सुधार हो सकें, करें । मिलावट रोकने के लिये जो कदम उठाये जा सकते हैं, वे उठाये जायें और आम लोगों को जरूरत की चीजें सही समय पर उपलब्ध हो सकें । लेकिन अच्छा होता कि यदि श्रीमती भगत हमारी आवाज सुन रही होतीं, क्योंकि वह इस दर्द को ज्यादा अच्छे ढंग से समझ सकती हैं ...

श्री एच के० एल० भगत : आपकी आवाज खूब सुनती हैं और मेरे को को भी खूब सुनाती हैं

So, she may know the pinch of the kitchen more than anybody else.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मान्यवर, मैं भगत जी के प्रति सहानुभूति व्यक्त करता हूं कि वह अपने घर से भी पीड़ित हैं, उन्हें बहुत बातें सुनाई जाती हैं। महोदय, मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि जिस गम्भीरता को मद्देनजर रखते हुए प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अपने 20 सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम के सूत्र क्रमांक 18 में उपभोक्ता संरक्षण को रखा है और जिस आवश्यकता के हिसाब से कारगर कदम केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा उठाये जा रहे हैं, उसमें अभी और बहुत इम्प्रूवमेंट करने की जरूरत है। मैंने लंच के पहले निवेदन किया था कि आज भी भारत में ऐसे अनेक गांव हैं, जहां की जनसंख्या 100 से 200 है। हमारे यहां यह व्यवस्था है कि 2000 की संख्या पर एक फेयर प्राइस शाप होगी। आज 10 गांव के बीच में एक दुकान होती है। यह दुकानदार की मर्जी पर है कि कब दुकान खोले और कब दुकान बन्द करें या चीजें वह किस को कब दे। वैसे ही किसान कम फसल होने की वजह से और फसल को नुक्सान होने से त्रस्त है। लेकिन दुकानदार के व्यवहार से किसान, मजदूर और कम वेतन भोगी कर्मचारी और भी त्रस्त है। मान्यवर, 'दुकानदार' शब्द ही ऐसा है कि किसी भी रूप में आप इसको लें, इससे लोग बहुत परेशानी अनुभव करते हैं। जो गांवों में दुकानदार है वह गांव में रहने वाले लोगों के लिए कई मायनों में परेशानी का कारण है। जो रोजमर्रा की चीजें होती हैं, यह देखने में आया है और यह स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिए कि वह गांवों में कम तोलता है। जितनी चीज एक किलो में देनी चाहिए वह उससे कम रहती है। मैं गाव से आया हूं, गांव का रहने वाला हूं और एक सामान्य परिवार का हूं, मेरा इस चीज का कटु अनुभव है कि दुकानदार कम तोलता है। इसके लिए आपका जो वेट्स एण्ड मेजर्स विभाग है उसको निर्देश दिया जाना चाहिए कि वे इस संबंध में आवश्यक कदम उठायें। इसके अलावा दकानदार मिलावट की चीजें देता है। जैसे तेल है, मिर्च होती है, हल्दी होती है, पिसा हुआ आटा होता है और दूसरी कई चीजें होती हैं, अक्सर यह पाया जाता है कि इनमें मिलावट कर दी जाती है। इस बिल पर चर्चा करते समय मैं पिछले वर्ष हमने जो कंज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन बिल पारित किया था उसकी ओर सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। इस पर हमें विचार करना चाहिए कि उस महत्वपूर्ण बिल, कन्ज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन बिल, के पारित होने के बाद क्या कोई आशातीत परिणाम निकले, कोई संतोषप्रद परिणाम निकले ? हमें स्पष्ट रूप से स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि जितने जोरों और उत्साह से हमने कंज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन बिल पारित किया था आज उतना जोश और उत्साह नहीं है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सभी प्रान्तों में ब्लाक लेवल पर, डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर और स्टेट लेवल पर कंज्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन कौंसिल बनी है ? यदि नहीं बनी तो उनके क्या कारण हैं ? जिन राज्यों में इस प्रकार की कौंसिल बनी हैं उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ? अगर आप इस संबंध में गहराई से विचार करें तो आप इस नतीजे पर पहुंचेंगे कि उसके आशातीत परिणाम नहीं निकले हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): The hon. Member has taken more than ten minutes. He can conclude as early as possible.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : सबसे अधिक महत्व की बात यह है कि शहरों में तो दुकानें प्राय: खुली रहती हैं, लेकिन गांवों में दुकानदार दुकान बंद भी रखता है। एक मजदूर या किसान अपनी एक दिन की मजदूरी जाया करके दुकनादार के पास जाता है तो पाता है कि दुकान बंद है। इससे उसकी एक दिन की मजदूरी का नुकसान होता है। मजदूर या किसान दुकानदार के पास जाता है और अगर दुकान बंद है या दुकानदार चीज देने से मना कर देता है तो मजदूर का एक दिन का पारिश्रमिक मारा जाता है और उसको प्रताड़ित भी किया जाता है। आपने प्रति दो हजार पर एक फेयर प्राइस शोप की व्यवस्था कर रखी है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे देश में फेयर प्राइस शोप्स को बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। फेयर प्राइस शोप्स को बढ़ाने की बहुत आवश्यकता है। इस बिल में सजा का प्रावधान रखा गया है। उसमें भी हमको कठोर होना पड़ेगा, सख्त होना पड़ेगा।

[श्री सुरेश पचौरी]

हमें ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए जिससे कीमतें बढ़ाने वालों को, मुनाफाखोरी करने वालों को और जमाखोरों को डर हो सके । अगर किसी को इस प्रकार का देशद्रोही कार्य करते हुए पाया गया जो उसको कड़ी से कड़ी सजा मिलनी चाहिए । इसके लिए जिस प्रकार के एमेन्डमेन्ट की जरूरत हो, वह करना पड़े तो वह भी किया जाना चाहिए । चूंकि यह हमारे देश के आम लोगों की समस्या है, इसलिए यह सारे देश की समस्या है । गांवों के अन्दर जो वितरण व्यवस्था है ; चाहे वह कोआपरेटिव सोसायटीज के माध्यम से ही क्यों न हो, उससे आम आदमी त्रस्त है । देखने में यह आता है कि ये लोग चीजों को बाजार में बेच देते हैं और रजिस्टर में खानापूर्ति कर देते हैं । इसके संबंध में भी विवेचना किया जाना बहुत जरूरी है ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): I would like to inform the honourable Member that this Bill has to be passed by about 5 o' clock and there are 15 other Members to speak. I would, therefore, request him to conclude as early as posible.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मान्यवर, एक बात की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा । जैसा कि मैंने पूर्व में बताया, यद्यपि केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से काफी अच्छी पहल की जा रही है, आम आदमी को रोजमर्रा की चीजों के मामले में कानून में काफी सख्ती की जा रही है, लेकिन आम आदमी को इसका ज्ञान नहीं है । अतः मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इसके लिये क्या प्रयास कर रही है ? सरकार जनता में जागरूकता पैदा करने और अवेयरनैस लाने के लिये क्या कर रही है ? जनता में जागरूकता बहुत जरूरी है । इसके लिये मीडिया, टी० वी० तथा अन्य साधनों का उपयोग हो सकता है । इसके लिये इनका उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि आम जनता की समझ में यह आ सके । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आम जनता की तकलीफों को मद्देनजर रखते हुए सरकार की तरफ से क्या प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं ? मान्यवर, इसके लिये जो हमारा पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम है उस पर भी निगरानी रखना बहुत आवश्यक है । इसके लिये विभिन्न स्तरों पर विजिलेंस कमेटी गठित किया जाना बहुत जरूरी है । महोदय, मैं राशन कार्ड के संबंध में आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा । कई जगह यह शिकायत पाई जाती है और विशेषरूप से अरबन एरियाज में कि वहां जो फेयर प्राइस शाप्स हैं उनके जो ओनर्स हैं वे जाली राशन काड रखते हैं और खानापूर्ति वे जाली राशन कार्डों के माध्यम से करते हैं । यद्यपि यह बार बार कहा जाता कि हमारे पास अनाज के अच्छे भंडार हैं, हमारे पास काफी अनाज हैं लेकिन इतना कह देने मात्र से आम जनता की खाने की समस्या हल नहीं होती । हमें यह भी देखना है कि अनाज की कमी से कोई मरने न पाये, उसकी कमी से कोई प्रभावित न होने पाये, यह दायित्व केन्द्रीय सरकार का है और विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों का है । महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि किस पापुलेशन रेंशियो में विभिन्न राज्यों में फेयर प्राइस शाप्स हैं और इनको बढ़ाने के बारे में क्या विचार कर रहे है ? हमारा जो पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम है, पूरी दुनिया में वह सशक्त है, अद्भुत है । इसमें और काफी सुधार भी हुआ है । इसके लिये दो हजार करोड़ रुपये की सब्सिडी भी रखी गयी है । मान्यवर, आज की जो हालात हैं उनमें एडीबल आयल पर्याप्त मात्रा में हर स्टेट में भेजा जाना जरूरी है । यद्यपि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने काफी तेल मध्य प्रदेश को दिया है लेकिन वहां की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए वह पर्याप्त नहीं है । आज उत्पादन-कर्त्ता और उपभोक्ता के बीच में एक बैलेंस निर्मित करना बहुत जरूरी है । महोदय, जो कंज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन कौंसिल की मैंने बात कही, उसके सम्बन्ध में मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हर राज्य में ब्लाक लेवल पर और स्टट लेवल पर कंज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन कौंसिल बने, इस बारे में इस बिल में जो हम इस सदन में पारित करने जा रहे हैं, इस बात का स्पष्ट रूप से उल्लेख होना चाहिए और साथ ही इसमें जमाखोरों और कालाबाजारियों खिलाफ सख्त से सख्त सजा का प्रावधान होना चाहिए । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI NARAYAN KAR (Tripura): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the country is facing an unprecedented drought this year. The State of Assam, West Bengal and a part of Bihar are under the grip of floods. So the country is subjected to one form of

natural calamity. This is the time for hoarders, blackmarketeers and other anti-social elements to play havoc with the society. Hence this Bill which seeks to extend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act 1981 for five years is timely. I would like to point out that the intention and sentiments expressed by the Minister have no bearing with the reality. We should make essential commodities available to the people, to the millions of our people, particularly those who are below the poverty line those who are half-fed and those who are compelled to go without food. Because our people have little purchasing power, they have no purchasing power at all, with this objective in view the Food Corporation of India was set up, the State Trading Corporation was set up and certain commodities were categorised as essential commodities which should be available to our people. But unfortunately everyone knows and it is very agonising to find that the price increase has continued to gallop during the recent times. The index for all commodities with base of 100 in 1971 today stands at 402.7. If we look at the index for food articles, we find that here too there is a serious inflation. I need hardly refer to the prices of vegetables and all other necessary articles. The Government itself increased the prices of kerosene oil, rice, coal, etc. by imposing additional taxes just to oblige the IMF. Despite the existence of the Essential Commodities Act, the blackmarketeers have been successful in looting the public and cheating the Government during the last one decade. There has been no attempt on the part of the Government to check the price hike or to help the common people. Actually, they lack the political will to punish the blackmarketeers and to help the common people. This has been there, this Act has been there, for the last five years and the Government is seeking extension for another five years. Now, what is the position with regard to the number of raids conducted from the year 1983 onwards? In 1983, 2,33,000 raids were conducted and the value of goods confiscated was hardly Rs. 30 crores. In the year 1984, the number of raids conducted was 2,69,386 and the value of the goods confiscated was hardly Rs. 10 crores. In the year 1985, the number of raids conducted was 2,29,816 and the value of the goods confiscated was about Rs. 14 crores only. Therefore, I must say that when you are talking about the need to confiscate the stock of essential commodities hoarded by the blackmarketeers, you have got to be sincere in the implementation of the provision. But the figures in this respect are unsatisfactory. If you look at the number of persons arrested and convicted, you will feel convinced. In the year 1983, the number of persons arrested was 9,186 but the number of persons convicted was only 554. Similarly, in the year 1984, 8,860 persons were arrested. but only 194 were convicted. In this connection, I must say that the ratio of conviction to arrest is very very unsatisfactory which points to the need for earnest implementation of the Act.

You might have seen that the Government dismisses the striking workers or the employees because they are striking for their justified demands. But how many of the blackmarketeers and corrupt officials who were found guilty of looting the poor people and cheating the Government have been punished? You do not arrest them because you need help from them in order to come to power at the Centre. If you really want to check the price rise, you must act. If you do not act, then the provision would be a mere eyewash just to hoodwink the people and the Press. When the honourable Prime Minister of the country says that there is no shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities in the country, that there are enough foodgrains in the buffer stock, it is not understandable how the prices of essential commodities are going higher and higher. The Government must explain this phenomenon. The Government of India is not responding to the call of the State Governments to supply foodgrains and other essential commodities and when the States are asking for adequate supplies, the Government of India is reluctant to supply them. This is the reason why the States are suffering. Our Party has continuously been demanding for over a decade that wholesale trade in

[Shri Narayan Kar]

certain essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils, certain medicines and common salt should be taken over by the Government and the distribution of these essential items should be done through the public distribution system. But the Government of India is not doing it at all. So if you really want to save the common people from the looting merchants and the blackmarketeers, please accept our proposal and this policy will go against the traders and will help the common people.

I am here from the State of Tripura which is a land-locked and hill State. The State has to depend on the Central allocation of foodgrains, petroleum products and certain other essential commodities. In the absence of rail transport, it has to depend on road transport only. The State has to distribute rice to the people under the NREP, RLEGP, and various other schemes. But the Food Corporation of India could not supply the foodgrains allocated in favour of the State. Of course, there is the problem of non-availability of transport. In this connection, I would like to request the honourable Minister of provide adequate funds to the State Government of Tripura to construct foodgrains godowns in Tripura, in the hill regions and in the block headquarters, so that they can maintain a buffer stock and during the rainy season, the State Government can distribute rice and other essential commodities through the public distribution system. In this connection, the people of Tripura are the greatest sufferers in respect of petroleum products. I cite one example to the hon. Minister how the Indian Oil Cororation is functioning in the State of Tripura. Sir, the performance of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited is disappointing. They whimsically appoint and dismiss agents without the least consultations with the State Government. They have monopoly agencies at Kumarghat and have branches in the whole of Kamalpur Sub-Division including Ambasa. One Shri Moti Lal of Halahali who was given an agency on the request of the State Government has been abruptly removed from dealership. As a result, the entire locality is suffering. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Continuance Bill, 1987, which has been brought forward before this House by the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies. The Bill seeks to extend the life of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, by another five years from 1st of September, 1987. The problem of supply of essential commodites to all and particularly to the weaker sections of our society needs to be tackled on two fronts. The first and the most important aspect is to ensure building up of adequate stocks of all commodities. This also involves creating sufficient production capacity and encouraging production by guaranteeing remunerative prices for the products..

Sir, as regards agricultural production, this year due to serious drought conditions in large parts of the country and at the same time serious flood situation in the Eastern and North-Eastern regions, the production of crop is likely to be affected considerably. However, the rains in August may help the situation somewhat. If agricultural production goes down, it would naturally lead to shortages and would also create scarcity conditions in many parts of the country. As on 1st January, 1987, the buffer stocks were of the order of 23.60 million tonnes. The problem at hand would be to ensure equitable distribution so that essential food items are available to all. This would mean a very vigilant watch over the distribution system. The activities of both the public distribution system and the private trade would have to be monitored very closely and action taken when it is found that somebody is trying to take undue advantage of the scarcity conditions. The common problems faced in the distribution system can be briefly stated as: (1) poor quality of material; (2) adulteration; (3) non-availability of stocks and (4) inadequte information about the availability of stocks resulting in frequent visits to shops for drawing

quotas and consequent harassment at the hands of the shopkeepers. Besides foodgrains, other items of mass consumption which are in the organised industrial sector, are also required to be monitored very effectively. So also is the case of the edible oils, milk, pulses, fruits, dairy products, potatoes, onions and other vegetables.

Sir, it appears that by and large the supply position at the macro level would be taken care of without much difficulty. It is the micro level that is causing the problem, that would be causing the problem. It is at this level that this Act would play a very positive role. The main Act which gives sufficient powers to the authorities to take action seemed to have worked very well in as much as in the ten months period ending October, 1986, as many as 1,50,673 raids were conducted, 6430 persons were arrested, 2,632 were prosecuted, 830 were convicted and the value of goods confiscated was Rs. 648 lakhs. This would clearly show that the law is proving its efficacy in bringing to book the offenders. It is only fair that such a legislation should be given a further extention. And not only that. It should be used more effectively. It is going to be particularly significant when the signs of a difficulty period are on the horizon. It is very essential that a concerted drive is launched against the hoarders and the blackmarketeers. These anti-social elements are bound to take undue advantage of the situation.

Sir, as regards the supply of very vital items like rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and pulses it would be very necessary to give very special attention to the same. Stock position, demand and regularity in meeting the demand at each fair price shop level need to be monitored. even the slightest disruption would lead to a tremendous hardship and this is what we have to guard against. The overall situation is not difficult to tackle but it requires a very great effort to take vare of every small shop in a long-distance place, in an inaccessible village. With this objective in view, I would urge the hon. Minister to activise wardwise vigilance committees for fair price shops. Perhaps, he could consider writing to the State Governments in this regard. They should be given sufficinet authoity to inspect the shops and make a report to a statutory authority for taking appropriate action. It is the housewife who is most affected in these matters and it would, therefore be in the fitness of things that women are given the maximum representation on these committees. I would even go a step further and suggest that at least 75 per cent members could be women on committee at various levels.

Sir, the Act was further amended to give further protection to the consumer in regard to guarantee of quality and of being charged controlled price. The amended Act also confers the right on the affected consumer or a recognised consumer association to file a complaint under the Act. The consumer protection movement has to play its meaningful role in this regard. It must remain very vigilant and collect reliable data about cases where the consumer is adversely affected and file a complaint. The association has also to effectively follow up the final outcome of the complaint and help the authorities in bringing to book the culprits. A lot of voluntary effort is very essential in respect of spreading a very strong and effective consumer movement all through the country and for this purpose all the voluntary organisations and social institutions have a very important role to play.

3.00 P.M. Then, Sir, spread of knowledge about the rights of a consumer in regard to the quality of goods, its correct quantity and that he is charged the correct controlled price, are very essential. Sir, it is also very essential that both the Central and the State Governments continue to help and encourage the consumer movement and ensure its healthy growth.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to deal with certain reservations expressed in certain quartes particularly by traders' oganisations in Andhra Pradesh. Then had contended that in regard to some minor technical breaches of the Act, their members were harassed by the concerned authorities of the State Government. In the absence of full facts and the version of the State Government not being available, I am not

[Shrimati Sudha Vijay Joshi]

in a position to comment on the merits of the arguments of the associations. But I would only like to emphasise on one aspect that while the Act should not spare any trader who is indulging in malpractices, it should not lead to causing hardship to genuine traders. I would only state that the law should be implemented in fairness and should lead to the development of healthy trade practices. With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill to this august House.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, the original Act is the 1955 Act. The present Bill before us is a very simple one. Its object is to extend the period from five years to ten years for the operation of the amendments that were introduced in 1981. That is twenty-five years after we have implemented this Act, Parliament has found it necessary to introduce certain amendments for a temporary period of five years. Now, the amendment seeks to extend that period to ten years. The amendments that were introduced in 1981 apart from other amendments I will refer to only three amendments.

One is that the offence under the Essential Commodities Act is made non-bailable for the first time in the year 1981. Number two special courts were constituted to go into these offences excluding the jurisdiction of other courts. Even for granting bail they must go only to special courts to be constituted. The third one is that originally the Act provided a wholesome measure, though at one stage action is taken to confiscate the goods administratively. Then at next stage at least an appeal was provided to the ordinary courts of the land. But this amendment sought to take away the right of appeal at least to the civil court at one stage, and invest that power in the State Government. That is something like converting our Law Departments as administrators of justice. That is the third aspect.

Now Sir, first I want to clear one misconception that is prevalent in everybody's mind when he is talking about Essential Commodities Act. They think of only foodgrains, sugar, edible oils, like this. But this Essential Commodities Act defines essential commodities in a very wide manner. For example, coal in all form is essential commodity. Paper, paper board are essential commodities. Then foodstuffs. Iron and steel including manufactured items are essential commodities. Raw cotton, whether ginned or unginned, raw jute are all essential commodities. The objects of the Act are: Number one, to maintan supplies of the essential commodities. Number two, to secure equitable distribution of essential commodities. Then, thirdly, to see that they are made available at a fair price. We talk of essential commodities in terms of wheat and rice and sugar etc.. Now, cement is also an essential commodity; steel is also an essential commodity. For steel, it is the Government which produces 75 per cent of it, and although the price is not administered price, but it is as good as that because Government has almost the monopoly. Now to make such things available at a fair price, is one of the objects of the Act. Is the Government behaving properly in respect of things on which they have got complete control Cement price, at the time this Act came into force, was Rs. 6 per bag. Today the price is Rs. 70. Is it maintaining the price? Is it making it available at a fair price? Now, in respect of steel where the Government produces 75 or 80 per cent of it, the price when the Act came into force was Re. 500 per tonne. I am talking of average quality of steel, the rounds; thick rounds may be cheaper; thin rounds may be costlier. But I am talking of average price. Now the price is Rs. 7500 per tonne. These matters on which serious thought in to be given.

You are trying to increase punishment for violation, after 25 years. Alright, do it. But merely tightening the law is not going to improve matters. Recently we passed a Bill increasing punishment for taking dowry. It is an offence. But how much of it has been enforced all these years? A Special Court can try summarily and impose punishment of two years on a petty dealer. I have no brief for him.

But these dealers are also entitled to justice. One Circle Ispector comes and seizes property worth Rs. 40—50 lakh, and he produces the goods before a District Magistrate who may not know the law at all and he cannot convict the man, but the property worth crores of rupees is at the disposal of persons who do not know how to deal with that issue. Is it proper? Why do you make it non-bailable? Here, big offences are committed and they go and get bail, even anticipatory bail, and if he is a rich man, he can get anticipatory bail at mid-night. But these petty dealers cannot get bail. Of course, nobody will harass a big dealer, rather big dealers can harass the enforcing authorities because they hold the reins in their hands, whichever be the party in power. But petty dealers are harassed. I do not claim knowledge of how this Act is implemented in other States but I will confine my remarks to how it is being implemented for the last ten years in Andhra Pradesh. In 1981, you introduced this Act to say that only Special Courts will have the jurisdiction and they along will try and award punishment. How is its operating? It has only resulted in increased corruption. A Circle Inspector is prepared to pay Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh for a posting in the Vigilance Cell of the Civil Supplies Department, because he can earn a lakh of rupees, Rs. 50,000 as mamool and another Rs. 50,000, in specific cases making it a lakh, and this is how we are increasing corruption by making the provisions more stringent. We do not catch big sharks who are really responsbile for all the bungling. A Circle Inspector goes and arreasts a dealer, because the offence is non bailable. Then he sends the FIR to the Magistrate immediately who has the jurisdiction, and also to the Special Court. In Andhra Pradesh there is one Special Court for 4 or 5 districts; may be, it is like that in other places also. Now, the Magistrate before whom he produces the person, has no jurisdiction under the Act, and the dealer will have to go to the Special Court. The special court also has no jurisdiction to grant bail, unless notice is given to the public prosecutor. The public prosecutor takes one week for instructions. Ultimately the man may be innocent, but he will be in jail for ten days. Should a man who invests Rs. 5 lakhs or Rs. 10 lakhs of his own money, does business, be at the mercy of a sub-inspector who goes and arrests him and puts him in jail for fifteen days? What is happening? After the FIR is filed, no charge-sheet is filed. This is so in ninety-nine per cent of the cases; in fact, in cent per cent cases. Ultimately, no chragesheet is filed. Shall I tell you the reason? The purpose is served by sending the FIR, by arresting the man. After bail is over, everyboy would forget it. If the prosecute, there is a danger. Goods worth about Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 lakhs are seized. They produce before a District Magistrate. If the special court, after trial, acquits him, the goods cannot be confiscated. Therefore, to see that this does not happen, they will not prosecute the dealer. You take it from me I have some experience in these matters. I have appeared in a number of cases. In ninety-nine per cent of the cases, they do not file the charge-sheet. What for then is this provision? Why do you make it non-bailable? When a man is arrested, is it for the pleasure of it or is it to humiliate him? The object of arrest under the Criminal Procedure Code is to investigate unhampered for the purpose of filing the chargesheet after getting sufficient evidence. The man, otherwise, may scuttle the investigation. He may tamper with evidences. Sufficient evidence may not come. He may strike terror.

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the hon. Minister is not hearing.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I am listening. If he wants, I can refer to the last point made by the hon. Member.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): You are a vigilant Minister. No complaint against you.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I will refer to the last point. You are very helpful to me.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The hon. Minister is always vigilant.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Mr. Gopalsamy, I have seen the Minister taking notes also now and then of what I am saying. I could see that. The problem is, his glasses are misleading. We are not able to see whether he is hearing or not. This must be the reason.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I assure the hon. Member that I can see through the glasses.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: These are like the glasses Rajaji used to wear. You have a very distinguished predecessor. He always used such glasses.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): He is very vigilant in the House only, not in the case of the public distribution system.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: As I said, no charge-sheet is filed. The object of arrest is only to extract more money: 'I will arrest you. I will file a case. I will sent the FIR. If you are a rich man, you pay Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 1 lakh; I will not file a case'. But this is not the object of making the offence non bailable. The purpose is to investigate unhampered and collect evidence before the charg-sheet is filed. If I may say so, if somebody moves the Supreme Court that it is happening like this, that persons are merely arrested and that in no case, charge-sheet is filed, it would be treated as a clear abuse of the provision and would be struck down. What I am trying to say is that unless a charge-sheet is filed, a man cannot be arrested and harassed like this. I am not saying that the dealers are all saints. Nor the implementing authorities are saints. This should also be noted. Why I am so much agitated is because small traders, petty trades, are being harassed more. By making it non-bailable, you are only providing an instrument of oppression, harassment, to increase the quantum of bribe. In regard to special courts, for four or five districts, there is one court. You have to see that the mischief is remedied. My submission is that there should be rethinking on this provision. We should see that small traders are not harassed. I will give you one example to show how harassment is taking place. There is jowar which is an essential commodity and for this licence is required because it is a foodgrain. And if a licence is taken, there should be no difference in the stocks. Taking advantage of this, if there is a difference of one or two or five or ten bags, they seize jowar also. I argued, in jowar there is no price control, no movement control, no procurement, they can sell at any price, even if there is mistake of a few bags, why should you make it a non-bailable offence, why should you put him in jail? And nltimately, when no *prima facie* case is established, and it was a mistake of the clerk and nobody thinks of all this. Even if you go to the court, they say, it is an essential commodity, we cannot take the responsibility, only Mr. Bhagat can take the responsibility. These unnecessary controls should not be there. Here I am reminded at the time when Shri Rajiv Gandhi took over as Prime Minister of the country. Soon afterwards, he made the statement that his Government did not believe in unnecessary controls. He said, We will remove controls but retain control. This is what he said. So, you should not keep the provisions which are not effective, which encroach upon unnecessary areas, which create more and more harassment.

I will just take one more minute, Sir. In one case, the stocks of paddy and rice were seized. They said that 2478 bags should be there, whereas there were 2477 bags, one short. So They seized the stocks and handed over the same to another dealer, curiously telling that 2478 bags were delivered to him. Then he went to the court, the court passed strictures against the authorities. So there should be clear-cut guidelines. Having made such provisions, they should be followed by some guidelines to rationalise the implementation. I appeal to the Minister to give such guidelines that do not hit the interest of the dealer unnecessarily. This is my humble suggestion.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I support this Bill. Though this Bill is very small, it is very important. Here in paragraph 2 of the Preamble of

the Essential Commodities (Specail Provisions) Act 1981—here we refer to the principal Act—it is said: for the words 'five years' the words '10 years' shall be sustituted. This is the small amendment in this Bill. But while taking part in this discussion, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate our hon. Minister for Food and Supplies for putting his sincere efforts in regulating the entire supply system of the country. Sir, this is the amendment for five years. I should have liked it to be 'permenent' because the period of five years is not enough. Today, we find disturbances all over, whether they are communal or other wise and the root cause for all these disturbances is poverty. Economic inequilibrium is there and who is responsible for this? The main culprits are the blackmarketeers, hoarders and anti-social elements. The founding father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi started Dandi satyagraha for the cause of salt, but today we find that even the price of salt has gone up. So, our supply system should be such that it should benefit the poor man of this country, the man who is below the poverty line. Unfortunately we have made several laws, passed several Acts in Parliament, but these are not being implemented. That is the main worry of the society today. Who is to implement them? And what is the main reason why his is not being properly streamlined. These are the questions today. The main reason is the large scale corruption in the society—by the bureaucracy, by the black-marketeers, by the hoarders and other people. I remember Pt. Nehru said once that the black-marketeer would be hung on the nearest lamp-post. This was his opinion about the black-marketeers and hoarders.

In this Act, it has been provided that a minimum of three months imprisonment shall be awarded and the offence shall be non-bailable. This falls far short of requirement. In many cases there should not be any bail at all for these defaulter and culprits. Pollution, dilution and adulteration are the three evils prevalent in society. We give ample food to the people. But the shopkeeper as my friend said, is not a *dukandar* but वह दुख बांटता है ऐसा दुकानदार है । *Dukandar* has been squeezed together. Majority of these shopkeepers are anti-social. They just exploit the poor people. They earn their profits and live luxuriously. They have become very powerful in the country. When the drought and famine situation arises in the country, these black-marketeers, these corrupt officials actually suck the blood of poor people.

Now the question is how to control these bad elements of the nation. Now they have become so powerful that it is beyond our reach to control them. It should be made a mass movement. It is not a question one party or the other It is not a question of ruling party or the opposition party. It is a national question. It has become so powerful an evil that unless we become united, unless we fight unitedly, we cannot destroy this evil.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Form a national government.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: My Government has taken a lot of measures to control them. It is not that we are responsible for that. You are equally responsible for it. Shouting in this House will not help. Please don't disturb me. As I was saying, drought and famine calamity is a divine gift to such black-marketeers. To root out corruption of blackmarketing there should be a mass movement. There was a seminar in Bombay recently on the use of drugs, Many intellecutals participated in it. One of the participants was the Police Comissioner of Bombay. He said that there were more than one thousand drug pedlars dealing in drugs, but nobody could be prosecuted and taken to the court of law. Justice delayed is justice denied. This is the situation in courts of law also. It is a very difficult thing to prosecute a person. When the poliec goes there, the shopkeeper, the black-marketeer gives bribe to the police also. When the case goes to the court, the court also takes some bribe. The worst part of it is that judiciary has become very much corrupted. The entire system is getting rotten. How to deal with this question? This year is

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

we must be very vigilant to watch what is happening. Mr. Gandhi is very serious about the drought situation and we have prepared a master plan to fight the drought situation. But if we give two thousand crores of rupees and out of that one thousand crore rupees go to the corrupt officials or these hoarders or black-marketeers, then what is use of that ? There won't be any effect. Now we must be very vigilant. Basically we must find out how to make use of this money for the drought-affected and famine- affected people of this country. We must think from that point of view.

Sir, when we look at the urban areas and rural areas, we can say that people living in the slums in the urban areas and 90 per cent of the population of the rural areas are poor and most of them are below the poverty line. Rural backwardness and the poverty in the rural areas is mainly due to exploitation, and whoever might be the exploiter, whether he is big or small, must be punished. We must make such Acts in our Parliament that once a culprit is caught, he must be taken to a court of law within a period of two or three months and within a time-bound period the case must be decided and he must be punished. When a man is caught red-handed, I do not understand what more proof is needed in a court of law.

Again, Sir, let us take a look at the luxurious five-star hotel culture. When a man goes to a five-star hotel, he is charged Rs. 5 for a cup of tea and Rs. 75 for a meal. I do not know how a meal costs Rs. 75 there.... (*Interruptions*).... I don't know, Sir, because I don't go there. I just heard. When we pay just Rs. 1.75, we get a kilo of wheat and with one kilo of wheat we can feed ten people, bu in a fivestar hotel, as my friend has said, a man is charged from Rs. 150 to 200 for a meal. I do not understand why it costs so much and where the money goes. So, this is also black-marketing. There should be some restrictions on this

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): The honourable Member may conclude in a minute's time.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I will finish within two minutes, Sir, because most of the people have not taken much time. I hope you will give me two minutes more.

Sir, while taking part in this discussion I would like to raise some important questions relating to my State of Maharashtra. Bombay is a very big city in my State and it is known as the commercial or business centre of India. There we do not have enough enible oil and we always feel the shortage of edible oil there. We require 5.5 lakh metric tonnes of edible oil but our production is only 2.75 lakh metric tonnes..... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Fifty per cent goes to blackmarket.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I know. Not with me but with some business centres at Bombay. And not all business centres in Bombay belong to Maharashtra only; they are concerned with all parts of the country.

Sir, the Government of India is today supplying 11,000 metric tonnes of edible oil per month, which is quite insufficient. The coming months are festival months in Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Government has demanded supply of 18,000 to 20,000 metric tonnes of edible oil. The honourable Minister also is sitting here and I request him, through you, to please supply 18 to 20 thousand metric tonnes of edible oil per month to our State.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Twenty thousand tonnes they have given.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Then, thanks. If it is given, then I will take back my statement. But, as far as my knowledge goes, they have not given it.

Another point is, there is a reduction in the supply of wheat to the rural flour mills in my State by the FCI. A few days back the quota of the rural flour mills has been

reduced by 50 per cent. Sir, you know that Bombay is a big city having a population of 85 lakhs, and inculding the suburban areas and up to Nasik the total population comes to about two crores. Those people rely on bread and other ready-made food materials. So, from that point of view, the Maharashtra Government has requested them not to cut the wheat quota which is quite essential for the flour mills and to direct the Food Corporation of India to make the fullest supply of their wheat quota which was being supplied previously. With these words, Sir, I thank you very much.

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: I rise to support the Bill which has been brought forward by the hon. Minister.

Sir, taking advantage of the drought and floods in our country, once again hoarders and blck-marketeers are active, and they are smuggling most of the foodgrains which are supposed to reach the poorer people of the rural areas.

As a result of the 40 years of the Congress rule, the majority of the people in our country are below the poverty line, and their power of purchase has also gone down. Essential Commodities are in short supply. Prices are shooting up. Under these circumstances, one has to support the Bill. That is why, I am also supporting the Bill. As far as the bill is concerned it is an evil, but it is a necessary evil to deal more efficiently with the persons indulging in Black marketing. However, I would like to ask a few questions to the hon. Minister.

My first question is: How has the Act been implemented throughout these years? The figures available with me are:

In 1983 the number of raids was 2,29,519; the value of goods confiscated, Rs. 30 crores; the number of persons arre ted, 9186; the number of persons convicted, 554.

In the year 1984, the number of raids was 2,69,000, the value of goods confiscated, roughy around Rs. 10 crores; the number of persons arrested was 8,860; the number of persons convicted, only 194.

In the year 1985 the number of raids was 2,29,000; the value of goods confiscated, Rs. 14 crores; the number of persons arrested, nearly 8,000; the number of persons convicted, only roughly around 1,108.

After seeing all these figures, I have a few doubt in my mind, Sir. Either there must be defects in the law or it was not implemented properly. Another doubt in my mind is that the provisions of this Act should have been misused all along. Also the Act is lacking proper categorisation of the offences in itself.

Sir, besides that, my questions are whether sufficient quantities of essential commodities are available in the country or not, whether the Government of India has conducted any survey to ascertain whether sufficient quantity of foodgrains is available to meet the needs of the rural people and other people of India.

My next question is: for how many years in this Government going to regulate the supplies of the essential commodities in our rural areas?

Another important question: what are the steps that are being taken by the Central Government to control the inflation in our country?

I want to ask one more question sir, whether the Central Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the demand, the production, the procurement, the storage, the transportation in the distribution system to find out the defects in this system.

Here, Sir, I would like to mention, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has conducted a detailed survey to find out to whom the essential commodities should be

[Shri Talari Manohar]

made available. On that basis, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued green and yellow cards to them. Those who are holding green cards get rice at Rs. 2 per kg. and also other essential commodities at cheaper rates. Also they are giving subsidised *dhotis* and *saris* to the poorer people in the rural areas. Why can the Central Government not pursue other State Government to implement this scheme in their States? This is also an important question.

Further more I would like to request the Minister to help the State Government to run this scheme effectively.

Unfortunately Sir, instead of giving help, the Central Government, it seems, is troubling the State Government. I would request the hon. Minister to help the State Government in this regard.

I also say that our Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao deserves every help from the Central Government, and he deserves appreciation also.

Besides that, I have some more suggestions to make to the Minister. My suggestions are:—

(1) Ensure whether there are any defects in Law and if there are any defects in that law, they should be removed.

(2) You must see that it must not be used to harass small people and innocent people in the rural and urban areas.

(3) A detailed survey should be conducted to find out to whom the essential commodities should be made available in the rural and urban areas, particularly in the rural areas.

(4) The Central Government should also persuade all the State Governments to adopt the Andhra Pradesh pattern of civil supplies of essential commodities to see that all the rural and urban poor people in our country will get this benefit.

(5) The Central Government should extend financial assistance to all the States in the country irrespective of the fact whether it is ruled by the Congress (I) or non-Congress (I) parties.

(6) The Centre should allot sufficient quantity of all essential commodities and there should not be any discrimination towards the non-Congress (I) Governments.

(7) There should not be any private agency in the distribution system either at the level of distributing or at the level of transportation. The Central Government must take necessary steps to remove these middlemen throughout the country and should see that these commodities reach the people without any obstruction.

(8) With regard to the scarcity of essential commodities, the Central Government must work out a long term plan to attain self sufficiency in essential commodities in our country.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I whole-heartedly support this Bill. While doing so, I would like to place before this august House some of my views which are agitating my mind. In the week ending on the 8th August, the wholesale price index has gone up by 0.5 per cent as compared with the earlier week. That means in one month it has gone up by 2 per cent. If you take the average, in one month the rise will be 2 per cent and for one year it will be 24 per cent. According to me, this is a very high rate of inflation. This is the position as on the 8th August. But after that much water has flowed down. I do not know what will be the rate of increased price indices of the weeks ending on the 15th August and the 22nd August. This phenomenon of rising prices has to be curbed.

As far as the price of edible oils is concerned, several times in this House by

way of special mention and by participating in the discussion on the budget, I had cautioned the Government that if appropriate steps are not taken for checking the rise in prices of edible oils, the price will rise to such an extent that even to buy a few drops of edible oil our brothers and sisters have to shed tears from their eyes. That has come true now. In the last one month, the price of edible oils has gone up by 15 per cent. As compared to the prices one year before, it has gone up by 50 per cent. Similarly, the vanaspati oil price has also gone up by 15 per cent. As compared to the last year, it has gone up by 50 per cent. The oil required for the purpose of manufacturing vanaspati is provided by the Government from imported oil, that is, palmolene oil. May I know from the Minister whether the price of the imported oil which has been given to the vanaspati industry by the Government has gone up by 50 per cent? I would also like to know whether the inputs, the wages and other charges have gone up by 50 per cent. If not, what action the Government has taken to see that this type of profiteering in vanaspati industry is curbed? Our hon. Minister is a practical Minister and he knows everything about this industry. I feel an enquiry has to be done. I want the Minister to define the word "profiteering". What is profiteering? You have to prescribe maximum margin of profit on those items which are required by the common man for the daily necessities of life both at the wholesale level as well as at the retail level and Government must monitor it to ensure whether the wholesalers and retailers are doing their business within this margin of profit prescribed by the Government. If this is not done, then, I think, whatever action you want to take against the profiteers, you will not be in a position to take that action. For that purpose, I would like to give one example of Maharashtra. In 1975 we had the same situation in Maharashtra. We discussed it with several associations of the traders, wholesalers, retailers and industrialists in respect of particular items of mass consumption and we fixed the maximum margin of profit, both at the wholesale as well as at the retail level and we monitored it and whenever we found that there is difference in the margin of profit between the wholesale price and the retail price so fixed by the Government, action was taken. That is why, I would like to request the hon. Minister to have a meeting of various organisations at wholesale level, retail level of those items which are of mass consumption and tell them that the country is facing a serious drought situation which has not been seen during the last 100 years and ask them that for some time, they have to see that margin of profit is kept less and the consumers should get essential commodities at a price fixed by the Government. If proper monitoring is done at district level and taluka level, I am sure, this type of profiteering resorted to by industrialists, wholesalers and retailers can be curbed. Otherwise, whatever Bill. You may bring in and whatever punishment you may give, will not give results.

Sir, another aspect which I would like to deal with is regarding those workers who are working at the relief sites. They must be provided with basic necessities of life at the site itself and for that prupose, you have to establish fair price shops at the site itself. In the Adivasi areas, for whom you want that goods of mass consumption should reach them and you have done it also but I have enquired at some places whether in tribal areas, mobile vans have been given by the Government or not and I am told that in Maharashtra, it has not been given. So, I would request the hon Minister that if you want that these goods should reach Adivasis and tribal people, then mobile vans should be given all over the country and if necessary, all the State Governments should be informed that as far as the Central Government is concerned, they are prepared to give mobile vans but as far as their maintenance is concerned, it is the job of the State Government and if this is done this type of complaint will not be there. The hon. Minister has given advance information in respect of imported edible oil to be given through the public distribution system. In the month of July, it was 70,000 in August it was 1,20,000 and for the months of September-October, it will be 1,50,000.

[Shri Jagesh Desai]

This will have some impact on the prices. I would request the Minister: do not go in for exporting the HPS groundnut. You may earn some foreign exchange out of it but the psychological effect of that will be such that price of groundnut oil will go up. I will request the Government that in order to earn some foreign exchange, don't take such an action by which, again, the prices will go up and you will find yourself again in difficulty.

Sir, as regards prices, as I have told earlier; it is going up but is the fruit of the price rise passed on to the farmers or not. The farmers have already sold their crops long before but the hoarders, the big traders, they are profiteering by hoarding and for that purpose. Sir, I request the Government that you have to find out some scheme by which this operation of what you call hoarding is stopped. Sir, for this, if margin of profit is fixed at the wholesale level, there will not be any hoarding at all. There should be some curb on the profit margin. People hoard with a view to profiteering. The hoarder knows, "I am going to get this much profit. If I hoard more quantity, then I will pay more interest." That is why, if the margin of profit is limited, hoarding will be stopped. The Government should consider very seriously whether it can do this. If it can do this, I am sure hoarding can be stopped. If this is done, there will not be any hoarding and the consumers will get their foodgrains at reasonable prices. The farmers' case is worse. They have already sold the foodgrains in the market at a particular price. When they want to buy from themselves, they have to buy at very high costs. Are you going to stop this? Something should be done early. The Government must take firm action.

Coming to the question whether we will be faced with shortage of foodgrains, though our Government has buffer stock, the situation is such that the Government is required to see that what we have got must be distributed to the persons for whom it is meant. To achieve this, a campaign should be launched to detect bogus ration cards. That campaign should be started immediately. Because of these bogus ration cards, foodgrains, edible oil and sugar again go to the black market.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : जब आप अपनी बोगस मेम्बरशिप चैक नहीं कर सके, तो बोगस राशन कार्ड कैसे चैक करेंगे ?

श्री जागेश देसाई : मैं आपको बताऊंगा कि यह कैसे हो सकता है।

Sir, I will give you the example of the State of Maharashtra. We have done it. In Bombay city itself twenty lakh bogus units were unearthed. Nearly ten lakh people who were not there, were drawing the supplies. To that extent, the foodgrains and other things went to the black market. So, some forceful step should be taken. Raid the ration shops and if bogus cards are found—normally these ration shop-keepers are having bogus cards—not only the licence for the shop should be cancelled but the shop-keeper should be put behind bars. If this is done, the menace of bogus ration cards can be arrested.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): In bogus rule, bogus cards will remain.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: It requires the firm determination of the State Government. It should be thoroughly investigated and you can check it. This is my suggestion to you. I suggest that in rural areas, in all the sites where workers are going for work, we should run fair-price shops and all the items of daily necessity should be available there. Also, whenever foodgrains are sent to the villages, we should also send staff, or there should be somebody, to announce to the people that the foodgrains have come and they can be bought. Otherwise, the foodgrains again go into the business of the shop-keeper and to the black market. Even when the mobile shops in vans go to tribal areas, announcements should be made that the articles can be collected at a particular time on a particular day at a particular place. If this is done, we

shall be able to give these foodgrains to those for whom they are meant.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir today, price rise is the biggest challenge to this Government. If may be permitted to say, this is going to be worse than Bofors as far as this Government is concerned.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): What has Bofors to do with this?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, our hon. Minister is ever vigilant and ever probing and efficient. But, Sir, I am afraid, they cannot meet the task because the price rise has totally eroded the faith, the confidence, of the poor people—also the middle class—about the performance of the Government. The opinion of housewives from the middle class is this: We have stopped buying vegetables as we cannot afford them. The middle class people find it very difficult to pull on with their income. According to a report available in the first week of August the prices of some of the vegetables are as follows... (*Interruptions*) Cauliflower in Kailash Colony is Rs. 24 and in Tilak Nagar it is Rs. 20 per kg; cabbage Rs. 12 and Rs. 10, respectively; Potatoes Rs. 5; onions Rs. 5; brinjal Rs. 6; tomatoes Rs. 16. The middle class people have now forgotten using tomatoes. I hope our friends from this side also agree, even Members of Parliament coming from middle class also find it very difficult to afford these vegetables at these prices—when I say this I do not mean to say that our salaries and allowances should, therefore, be enhanced. What I emphasise is with the meagre salaries and allowances we find it very difficult to pull on. (*Interruption*) I know that you will agree with this but only you cannot express it. It is very hard for the fixed income groups to run the household. Tomatoes are selling at Rs. 16 per kg. There is nothing, no vegetable, selling at less than Rs. 10 a kg. Then, untinned refined groundnut oil has gone up from Rs. 27 to Rs. 32 per kg. (*Interruption*) This is the statistics available as per the first week of August; now it might have gone up; we are in the third week now. Groundnut oil has gone up from Rs. 22 to Rs. 28; pulses range between Rs. 7 and Rs. 11. Even though vegetables have arrived in certain markets, the prices of tomatoes, onions and potatoes have not come down. For the past two weeks, according to the press reports, large quantities of these vegetables are supplied, have arrived in the markets, but the prices have not come down. As far as oil, edible oil, is concerned, it is very serious. Just in one year the price has gone up by as much as 25 per cent. Unless Government takes immediate steps to check this upward trend, the prices are likely to escalate further and black-marketeers and hoarders have the field day. There is another potential danger of adulteration by unscrupulous traders because they try to exploit the situation; here is a golden opportunity for them....

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Wherefrom have you got these figures? It has gone up by 50 per cent in one year.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: All right; I agree with you. Mustard oil has already become a rare commodity. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Mr. Desai, the honourable Opposition Member is charitable to the Government. Why do you spoil it?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: No, no. I am wrong: he has corrected me. The correction is valid and I agree with it.

Now, groundnut crop has come down. The area taken up for groundnut cultivation in Saurashtra is said to have come down by half because of drought. We do not know, next year the situation is going to be very serious. Vanaspati prices are going up. Government was planning to increase the price of imported oil supplied to the Vanaspati industry. Following the revision of imported oil from Rs. 11500 to Rs. 15000 per tonne, the prices of vanaspati products also will go up. "Besides, the sales tax on vanaspati here is 5 per cent as against

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

8.5 per cent in Haryana, 11 per cent in U.P. and 12 per cent in Rajasthan. Nearly 2,000 to 3,000 15 kg. tins of vanaspati are smuggled out of the capital daily, it is alleged." I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister to this important point because it is only on account of the smuggling of vanaspati that the people in Delhi are facing this problem of shortage and high prices. The prices of cooking oil also have gone up. You can go to any branch of the Super Bazar in Delhi and you will see serpentine queues, long queues. I am also surprised to see that groundnut oil is not supplied in loose quantities. If it is supplied in loose quantities, I do not think that they will have to stand in line for such a long time and wait for long hours. They can also open more counters. I can tell you that price rise is the biggest challenge and I do not think that the Government will be able to solve this problem. Previously, they had stated that they could control the price rise. But the worth of a rupee is only fourteen paise now because the value of tht rupee has gone, down. Under these circumstances, I would like to request the honourable Minister to take firm steps. I agree with Mr. Jagesh Desai on the problem of hoarding. I think marginal price could be fixed. The hoarders are exploiting the producers like parasites and the agriculturists are not getting the profits and that is the problem. Sir, you have already hinted that the time at my disposal is short and that I should conclude quickly. I should express my thanks because I have been allowed to speak out of the queue and other Members also have agreed to that. Sir, our honourable Minister really looks like David ready to meet his Goliath. But I think his Goliath will be a different Goliath. Mr. Minister, if you succeed, it is well and good. Otherwise, the problem is going to be the biggest problem for the Government and the Government is going to face the worst situation because of this price rise. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Now, Mr. Kushnoor.

SHRI VEERSHETTY MOGLAPPA KUSHNOOR (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill. This is a very small Bill and the amendment is a very small one, and for the word "five" the word "ten" is going to be substituted and this is the amendment to the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981.

Sir, I want to read out the preamble to this Act which says :

> "...to make certain special provisions by way of amendment to the Essertial Commodities Act, 1955, for a temporary period for dealing more effectivedy with persons indulging in hoarding, blackmarketing and profiteering in essential commodities and for checking the vicious inflationary price rise and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

This Act has been passed five years ago and it is to end on the 31st of August, 1987. Sir, I want to know, though some information is available, how for we have succeeded in these five years in curbing profiteering and blackmarketing and such other things. I would like to know how many cases have been booked and what action has been taken against the blackmarketeers in the various States. I would like to know whether we have this information with us because unless we have that, we cannot take proper steps. Even today the honourable Members here have stated that prices are rising day by day and there is no fall at all in the prices and the prices are so high these days that it is impossible for the common man to get his essential commodities. My submission, in this connection, is that while passing this Act, we had hoped that this Act would create an atmosphere in the country, a situation in the country, in which the blackmarketeers would fear to indulge in their usual activities because of the stringent provisions in the Act.

[**The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai)** in the Chair.]

Any person can be detained for fifteen days and there is no question of bail for

him and even if he applies for bail, he will not be released. Any judicial or Executive Magistrate can detain a person. Then, powers have been given to the Special Courts. According to the provisions in the Act, these Special Courts are to be headed by persons who

4.00 P.M. are Sessions Judges. The Session Judges were already having the work of murder trials and other things. I would like to know whether they will have to time to deal with these cases. I am doubtful that these cases which have been instituted in the year 1981 may be pending and they might not have been decided.

I want to bring one more point to the notice of the hon. Minister. Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, there are two authorities. The case pertaining to offence will go to the judicial court and the Executive Magistrate will deal with the property which has been seized. I am unable to understand as to why there is this dual authority. The Executive Magistrate will deal with the property seized and the Judicial Magistrate will deal with the offences. This dual authority must be finished as early as possible for the good of the country and the nation.

I am unable to understand why there is price rise. I would like to tell this august House that the prices are coming down in the world today. I am not placing data on the basis of any imaginary survey. It is World Bank Survey and it shows that the groundnut oil prices have gone down by 43 per cent all over the world during 1984-86. But in our country, it has gone up by 20.32 per cent during 1984-86. The prices all over the world are coming down and I have given the percentage, whereas in my own country it goes up by 20 per cent. In the same way, coconut oil prices have gone down by 77 per cent in the world whereas in my own country it has increased by 11.45 per cent. This shows that we are lacking somewhere, our production is not up to the demand and we could not plan in that way. I am sorry to say that during the last 40 years we could not produce more. When there is more demand and less supply, this black-market is there. This kind of things will happen unless we are able to regulate the situation.

We have passed several laws. This is a very stringent law and a person can be detained without any trial for 15 to 20 days. Even after passing such laws as Food Adulteration Act, Standard Weights and Measures Act, still we see that food adulteration is going on. I may quote one instance. In West Bengal, about 450 people died due to the supply of bad wheat flour which was mixed with some drug. I don't think any punishment has been given to anybody. Exemplary punishment should have been given to such persons. Nearly 450 persons died. In Bombay, some 12 persons died in a hospital due to supply of bad medicine and other things. These are the laws. But there is no implementation and the State Governments are not taking any action to see that these fellows who are playing with the lives of the people are punished. Even though we pass the laws, the implementation is not there and the State Governments are lacking the courage to see that such fellows are hanged. Once Pandit Nehru said that the black-marketeers should be hanged at the nearest pole. Just now somebody mentioned that point. But we are not taking action in spite of our passing these laws.

There are Fair Price Shops. Of course, we must have Fair Price Shops. Also we are having nearly 56,000 cooperative societies distributing these essential commodities. Unfortunately, this is a very peculiar situation. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that these 56,000 cooperatives societies are not provided finances by NABARD. NABARD says that they are not going to provide finances for this business of distribution of essential commodities. The R.B.I. is not allowing NABARD and other banks to give finances for this business. Therefore, what is happening is that these 56,000 cooperative societies are losing every year about 2,000/- to 4,000/- rupees. Therefore, my submission is that if you want to curb blackmarketing and if you want to see that prices don't rise, we will have to encourage the cooperative societies. Co-operative societies are only the means through which

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

we can supply the essential commodities without any profit. There may be some profit but it is not as high as in the other case. If the individuals are given the fair price shops, they also create a lot of havoc. Therefore, my submission is that the NABARD and the RBI should see that the co-operative societies get the finances from them.

Lastly, Sir, I think this Act would have lapsed if there had been no drought. I think the Government thought that the drought is there and if the Act lapses on the 31st August, they cannot take action against the hoarders and the black-marketeers. Therefore, I think before the end of this session, they have brought this measure. I welcome this and I congratulate them. This is a good measures which has been brought over here. Thank you, Sir.

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय माननीय, सदस्य ने जैसा बताया इस विधेयक में कोई खास बड़ी बात नहीं है, लेकिन एक ऐसे अवसर पर यह विधेयक आया है जो कई प्रकार की चेतावनियां भी दे रहा है। देश सूखे और बाढ़ से पूरी तरह से संकट में फंसा हुआ है। अगस्त महीने में जिस गति से चीजों की कम कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, वह तो आश्चर्यजनक है। आपने भी स्वीकार किया है कि केवल दालों के ऊपर 3 दिनों के अंदर 24 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। दो दिन पहले मैं भागलपुर में था, कड़वे तेल की कीमत पूछी तो पता चला कि 38 रु० किलो है। जब आज अखबार में पढ़ने लगा तो देखता हूं कि बिहार में मुजफ्फरपुर में जो कि बाढ़ से डूबा हुआ है राहत कार्य के लिए सरकार की ओर से पाव रोटी के पैकट इकट्ठे किए गए थे जो कि वहां ले जाए जा रहे थे बाढ़ पीड़ितों की सहायता के लिए। कुछ नागरिकों को पता लगा कि जितनी पाव रोटी के पैकट जा रहे है वे सड़ी हुई रोटी के पैकेट हैं।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र (बिहार) : वह सरकार का नहीं था किसी वालंटरी आर्गनाइजेशन का था।

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र : सरकार के माध्यम से जा रहा था आप क्यों परेशान होरहे हैं? उसे घेर लिया गया। सरकार ने नहीं घेरा सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं ने उसको घेरा। जब उसको घेरकर रखा गया तो पता लगा कि पाव रोटी जो उसमें थी वह सड़ी हुई है जो कि खाने के लिये भेजी जा रही थी।

महोदय 1955 में पहले पहल जब यह विधेयक पारित हुआ था तो उस समय तीन बातों की कल्पना की गई थी। उत्पादन आपूर्ति और मूल्य नियंत्रण। 1955 के बाद जो आज हम 1987 में चल रहे हैं। 1981–82 में भी इसमें संशोधन पेश किया गया था। आज हम 1987 में पहुंच गए और पहुंचने के बाद भी लगता यह है कि जैसे हिन्दी में एक कहावत है—तू डाल डाल मैं पात पात—आप कानून बनाते चले जाइए हम तेजी से उसमें निकलते जाएंगे। मुझे याद आ गया कि एक बहुत बड़े अर्थ शास्त्री ने भ्रष्टाचार की परिभाषा गणित के आधार पर की। उस महापुरुष ने कहा—Corruption is equal to the shortage of a commodity multiplied by Government regulation.

महोदय, आप कितने ही कदम उठाइए, उससे कुछ होने वाला नहीं है। आपने जो कदम उठाए उनकी मैं थोड़ा-सा आपको गिनती कराना चाहता हूं। कानून तो आपने पास किए। हमने फूड कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया (एफ०सी०आइ०) स्थापित किया, राज्यों में स्टेट फूड कारपोरेशन (ऐस०एफ सी०आइ०) स्थापित किए। फिर मैं एक चीज और कहना चाहता हूं क्योंकि इस बात को भूलना नहीं चाहिए कि व्यापार केवल व्यापारी निजी व्यापारी नहीं कर रहा है, बहुत बड़ा व्यापार तो स्वयं सरकार करती हुई दिखाई दे रही है। सीमेंट का व्यापार कौन कर रहा है? लोहे का व्यापार कौन कर रहा है? पेट्रोल का व्यापार कौन कर रहा है? डीजल का व्यापार कौन कर रहा है? जो जन वितरण की दुकानें हैं उन दुकानों पर व्यापार कौन कर रहा है? अगर सचमुच में आप कोई कल्याणकारी कदम उठाना चाहते हैं तो मैं, समय सीमित है इसलिए कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूं, सबसे पहले एफ०सी० आई० और एस०एफ०आई० के गोदामों की छानबीन आप कराइये। उसमें देखिये

कि एक मनुष्य के उपभोग में आने वाली कितनी सामग्री वहां पड़ी हुई है। अगर उसमें ऐसी सामग्री पड़ी हुई है, ऐसा सड़ा हुआ गल्ला पड़ा हुआ है कि आदमी की अंतड़ियों में जायेगा तो मरे बिना नहीं रहेगा, जानवर खायेगा तो वह भी मरे बिना नहीं रहेगा तो फिर उसकी पूरी छान-बीन होनी चाहिए और उसमें सुधार होना चाहिए। एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा हल करने के लिए सकारिता का भी अपना एक बड़ा भारी रोल है। मैं इस को स्वीकार करता हूं और इस बात को भूलना नहीं चाहिए कि सहकारिता भी सरकार के साथ जड़ी हुई है। लेकिन सचमुच आप सहकारिता को कारगर बनाना चाहते हैं और समझना चाहते हैं कि सहकारिता की स्थिति क्या है तो मैं आप को निमंत्रण दे रहा हूं, सरकार को भी निमंत्रण दे रहा हूं कि वह बिहार के अंदर सहकारिता की दो संस्थाओं को देखें। आपको उन को देखने से आश्चर्य लगेगा कि जो चोटी के पांच लोग हैं, मैं व्यक्तिगत नाम नहीं लेना चाहता, वे 10-15 वर्षों में केवल लखपति नहीं बने हैं, केवल करोड़पति नहीं बने हैं अरबपति बन गये हैं और भ्रष्टाचार के तो एक से एक उदाहरण भरे पड़े हैं। उनको देखने के बाद हृदय कांप उठता है। खाद के नाम पर मिट्टी ऐसी वाहियात मिला दी जाती है जिससे लाखों हैक्टेयर खेती में जाने के बाद पूरी फसल चौपट हो जाती है। क्या आप भ्रष्टाचार दूर करने जा रहे हैं? यही क्या आप संशोधन करने जा रहे हैं? अगर हिम्मत करें तो जहां-जहां सरकारी या अर्ध सरकारी हाथ पड़ा हुआ है वहां से शुरु करिये। आप देखिये कि पिछले एक महीने में सीमेंट की एक बोरी में 9 रुपये कीमत बढ़ जाती है। अचानक स्टील की कीमत बढ़ जाती है, डीजल और पेट्रोल की कीमत बढ़ जाती है, अचानक ट्रांसपोर्ट के चार्जेज बढ़ जाते हैं। क्या आप समझते हैं कि सीमेंट की कीमत बढ़ेगी तो उसका असर चावल और गेहूं की कीमत पर नहीं पड़ेगा? अगर पेट्रोल की कीमत बढ़ेगी तो उसका असर सब्जी पर नहीं पड़ेगा? जितनी उपभोग की चीजें हैं, आर्थिक नियम यह है कि अगर एक की कीमत बढ़ती है तो उसका परिणाम दूसरों पर पड़ता ही है। लगता यह है कि आप जितने कानून बनाते जा रहे हैं, मोटे तौर पर सरकारी पदाधिकारी, भ्रष्ट राजनीतिक नेता और उनके ठेकेदार, उनके संरक्षक हैं, उनके कमाने के लिए ही इस प्रकार के कानून बनाये जाते हैं। अगर ईमानदारी से कदम उठाने हैं आपको इस ओर खास ध्यान देना होगा। कांटा कहां चुभ रहा है जो जूता पहनता है उसी को इसका पता होता है। नहीं तो होगा यह कि चमड़े की रखवाली का काम कुत्ते को सौंप दिया जायेगा। वह जितने नियम मर्जी बनाये, मर्जी करे। क्या कभी आपने देखा है कि जन वितरण प्रणाली से आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के गरीब आदिवासियों को क्या प्राप्त हो रहा है? उसको पता भी है कि जन वितरण प्रणाली नाम की कोई चीज काम कर रही है? जो आपने बहुत से नियम बनाये हैं वह लोगों की सुविधा के लिए बनाये हैं लेकिन आपके नियमों और कानूनों से वह लोग परिचित भी नहीं हैं। आपने उपभोक्ता आन्दोलन चलाने की बात की है। आपने बहुत अच्छी चीज की घोषणा की है—कंज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन सैल। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं सारे देश में आप क्या नहीं स्थापित करना चाहते हैं। कंज्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन के लिए आपने कौन-से कदम उठाये हैं? बिहार का मैं देख रहा था। चार जिलों में कंज्यूमर्स कौंसिल बनाने की घोषणा हुई। केवल चार जिलों में ही आप इसको क्यों कर पाये हैं, इसके क्या कारण हैं। अगर इस प्रकार की कौंसिल सभी जिलों में होती तो कम से कम कंज्यूमर को पता चलता कि उसके साथ न्याय हो रहा है या नहीं। वह बनिये को ठीक कर सकता है, वह सरकारी अधिकारियों को ठीक कर सकता है। इस प्रकार का प्रावधान

[श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र]

होते हुए भी कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है । हमने यह देखा है कि जब-जब भी जांच करने के लिए या देखरेख करने के लिए सरकारी या गैर-सरकारी समितियां बनाई जाती हैं उनमें सत्तारूढ़ दल के लोगों को ही लिया जाता है । मैं यह बात बिहार के बारे में कह रहा हूं । इसका कारण यह है कि आपका मंशा साफ नहीं है, हृदय साफ नहीं है । आज स्थिति यह है कि ऊपर से लेकर नीचे तक भ्रष्टाचार व्याप्त है । यही कारण है कि कानून बनाने से उसके उद्देश्य की पूर्ति नहीं होती है ।

मैं आपका ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं कि आने वाले दिनों में एक घोर संकट दिखाई दे रहा है । बाढ़ और सूखे के कारण देश के अन्दर भयंकर स्थिति पैदा होने जा रही है । मुझे यह दृश्य साफ दिखाई दे रहा है । एक दो महीनों के बाद सारी उपयोग की चीजों, जैसे खाद्यान्नों, आवश्यक वस्त्रों और अन्य चीजों की कीमतों में वृद्धि होने जा रही है । लेकिन कष्ट इस बात का है कि आपको यह चित्र दिखाई नहीं दे रहा है । मैं फिर आपसे आग्रह करूंगा कि जहां कहीं भी कांटा चुभ रहा है उसको आप ठीक करने के लिए कोशिश कीजिए ।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो आवश्यक वस्तु (विशेष उपबन्ध) विधेयक की जिन्दगी को पांच वर्ष से बढ़ा कर दस वर्ष करने का प्रस्ताव सदन में लाया गया है उसका मैं तहेदिल से स्वागत करता हूं । इस आवश्यक वस्तु विधेयक का हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था से बहुत गहरा संबंध है । आज हमारे देश में आवश्यक वस्तुओं के वितरण की जो व्यवस्था है उससे भारतवर्ष में सभी लोग त्रस्त हैं, इसमें कोई दो मत नहीं हैं । मैं जानता हूं, हमारे मंत्री जी, भगत जी और प्रधान मंत्री जी इस प्रणाली को सुधारने के लिए काफी प्रयास कर रहे हैं । जहां तक शहरों का संबंध है, वहां तो अगर कोई शिकायत की जाती है तो उसके संबंध में कार्यवाही होती है, लेकिन गांवों में यह स्थिति नहीं है । सन 1955 में यह विधेयक बना । सन 1983 में इसमें संशोधन किया गया । आपकी मंशा है कि हमारी वितरण प्रणाली में उचित सुधार हो । आपने इस संबंध में मुख्य मंत्रियों को चिट्ठी भी लिखी है । सूखे और बाढ़ के कारण हमारे देश में जो स्थिति पैदा हो गई है उसमें इस पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम की तरफ ध्यान देने की बहुत जरूरत है । सत्तारूढ़ दल में होते हुए भी मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि शहरों में तो थोड़ा बहुत इस तरफ ध्यान दिया जाता है, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य यह है कि हमारे देश की 80 प्रतिशत जनता जो देहात में रहती है, उनको आवश्यक चीजें नहीं मिलती हैं । इसमें कोई दो मत नहीं हैं, इस प्रकार की स्थिति हमारे देश में पैदा हो गई है । सिर्फ कानून बना देने से काम चलने वाला नहीं है । जैसा आपने कहा कि दो हजार पर या पांच हजार की आबादी पर दुकानें खोल दी गई हैं, लेकिन उनमें इतना भ्रष्टाचार है कि लोगों को आवश्यक चीजें नहीं मिल पाती हैं । अस्सी प्रतिशत जनता को आज भी चीनी, तेल और दूसरी आवश्यक वस्तुएं समय पर नहीं मिलती हैं । आप इसकी अवधि को पांच साल के लिए और बढ़ाना चाहते हैं । मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यह एक परमानेन्ट फीचर आपका 1955 से हो गया है । इसको 33 साल हो गये यह कब तक चलेगा । हम देखते हैं कि आवश्यक वस्तुओं के जो ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स हैं, होल्डर्स हैं, जो इतने अबडक्शन करते हैं वे पांच साल में, दस साल में लखपति, करोड़पति, अरबपति हो जाते हैं । ये कैसे हो जाते हैं ? चिंता आज इस बात की है । मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि पंडित जवाहर-लाल नेहरु जो मार्डन इंडिया के मेकर थे उन्होंने कहा था कि ऐसे काम करने वाले लोगों को कड़ी से कड़ी सजा दी जाय, उन्हें फांसी लगाई जाय । लेकिन आप ऐसा नहीं करते । हमारे समाज में जो व्यवस्था है उसके चलते यह हो रहा है । हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि कंज्यूमर्स में जागरुकता लानी चाहिए । लेकिन वह भी नहीं है । इस कार्य में जो पदाधिकारी और लोग लगे हैं उनमें कितने परसेन्ट

ऐसे लोग हैं जो अपने सामाजिक दायित्व को निभाने के लिये आगे आने वाले हैं। आज हमारे समाज में सरकार और सामाजिक संस्थाओं के लिये यह चिंता का विषय है कि किस ढंग से आवश्यक वस्तुओं का वितरण सही रूप से हो। इसके कार्यान्वयन के लिये, इसके इम्प्लीमेंटेशन के लिये, आपने भी उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, अपने भाषण में कहा और हमारे बुजुर्ग और बड़े भाइयों ने भी कहा कि इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ठीक से नहीं हो पा रहा है। अगर प्रत्येक प्रान्त की सरकारें इस मुद्दे को सही, ईमानदारी से टैकल करती हैं तो समस्या पर कुछ हद तक काबू पाया जा सकता है, हमारी सबसे बड़ी जो चिंता है वह यह कि हमारे बीच में एक दूसरी एकानामी एक पैरालल एकानामी चल रही है, जिसे ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स और होल्डर्स चला रहे हैं। अभी प्राइस बढ़ने की बात कही गयी। गांवों में इस पर कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। तेल, सब्जी कोई भी जीवन की आवश्यक चीज आप ले लें कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। आपने यहां पर कानून पास कर दिया और सदन में सारे लोग, किसी ने इसका विरोध नहीं किया अगर चिंता है तो सिर्फ यह कि इसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ठीक से हो लेकिन वह ठीक से नहीं हो पाता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूंगा कि आप चीफ मिनिस्टर्स को बुलायें, प्रधानमंत्री लेबल पर बुलायें और उनको डाइरेक्शन दें और फिर उनसे पूछें कि किन किन राज्यों में राशन की फेयर प्राइस शाप्स नहीं हैं। आप पिछले दस सालों से बात कर रहे हैं कि निगरानी समितियां बनें, ब्लाक लेवल पर बनें, पंचायत लेवल पर बनें। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस तरह की व्यवस्था हो कि जो उस क्षेत्र के प्रतिष्ठित लोग हैं, म्युनिस्पल वार्ड के जो प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति हैं, जो बड़े वकील हैं, गांव के जो सरपंच हैं, जो पंच हैं उनको इसमें शामिल कीजिये और इसके माध्यम से वहां पर इस तरह का माहौल पैदा करिये। जब तक आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे मैं नहीं समझता कि एसेंशियल कमोडिटीज ऐक्ट जिस उद्देश्य से आप बनाना चाहते हैं कि होल्डर्स को पकड़ सकें, ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स को पकड़ सकें, उनको सजा मिल सके, तब तक यह पूरा नहीं होगा। जब आप इन लोगों को कड़ी से कड़ी सजा नहीं देंगे तब तक यह बात बनने वाली नहीं है। ये जो होल्डर्स हैं, ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स हैं, अडल्ट्रेशन करने वाले लोग हैं, आज अगर यह काम शुरू करते हैं तो ये पांच साल में करोड़पति हो जाते हैं और वे पांच-पांच विधायक पांच-पांच सदस्य विधान सभा में अपने पहुंचने की कोशिश करते हैं। आज ये यही कर रहे हैं। हमारे प्रदेश में ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स सारा कन्ट्रोल कर रहे हैं। एक देहाती कहावत है कि 'मरने का डर नहीं जम पकड़ने का डर है'। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ सख्ती बरते। जब देश में सूखा पड़ता है या फ्लड आती है तो वहां देश के नागरिक और सरकार इससे चिंतित होती है वहां ये लोग इससे खुश होते हैं कि हमारे सुनहरे दिन आ गये हैं। इसलिये ऐसे लोगों से लड़ने के लिये हमें एकजुट होकर, पार्टी कंसीडरेशन को छोड़कर, हम सब को मिलकर इसका सामना करना चाहिए। इसके लिये हर पंचायत लेवल पर, ब्लाक लेवल पर निगरानी समिति होनी चाहिए जो इसको करे। जैसा आपने कहा कंज्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन कमेटी की बात। लेकिन साल भर हो गये किसी भी राज्य में ये नहीं बनी हैं और न बनने जा रही हैं। इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यह हमारा और आपका दायित्व है, आप की एकाउन्टेबिलिटी टू दि पीपल्स हैं लेकिन आप बड़े शहरों में ही बिजी हैं ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। यह ठीक है कि यह राज्यों का विषय है लेकिन आपके ऊपर भी जिम्मेदारी है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि आप राज्यों में जायें, आप स्वयं वहां देखें, इंसपेक्शन करें और उसके बाद इस समस्या का हल निकालने की कोशिश करें। जब आप ऐसा करेंगे तभी आप इसमें सफल हो सकते हैं। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : राम नरेश कुशवाहा जी आप चार-पांच मिनट लीजिये।

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, जब मैं कोई फालतू बात कहूंगा तभी न ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : ऐसा नहीं है । टाइम का बन्धन है और कुछ नहीं है ।

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा : ठीक है मैं प्रयास करूंगा । मान्यवर, अभी माननीय देसाई जी बोल रहे थे (**व्यवधान**) उस समय तो सदन्य की हैसियत से बोल रहे थे, तो कह रहे थे कि राशन कार्ड फर्जी है 10 लाख यूनिट के तो हम को याद आ रहा था सन 1947 में जब पहली बार कंट्रोल लगा था तो उस वक्त छः छटांक राशन मिलता था शायद अब भी वही मिलता है । तो एक कार्टून 'संसार' नाम के अखबार में निकला था जिसमें लिखा था—

"पेट बड़ा पाजी है, इस पर क्या होगा शासन,

भगवान भला क्या होगा यह छः छटांक का राशन ।"

मान्यवर, तीन छटांक खाने वाले भी हैं, छः छटांक खाने वाले भी हैं और तीन किलो भी खाने वाले हैं । तीन किलो वाला भी खायेगा भले ही गलत यूनिट लिखवा कर खाए पर खाएगा जरूर ।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री एच० हनुमनतप्पा) पीठासीन हुए]

तो इस पर कहां तक कंट्रोल हो पाएगा और वह भी आज के जमाने में । अब भगत जी भले ही भगत हों लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि भगत जी के भगत जो हैं वे पूरे बगुले भगत हैं । उन पर एक गीत है—

"ईसा बीर न मूसा बीर,
सब से बड़ा है पैसा बीर ।"

अगर रुपया है तो सब कानून धरा रह जाएगा और लोग उसको पीस कर पी जाएंगे । एक कहावत है भोजपुरी की—

"जो पाणे की पतरा सो पणायन के अंचरा ।"

आप इतने कानून बनाते रहिये, यहां से आर्डर लिखते रहें लेकिन जो आपका सप्लाई आफिसर इसेंशियल कमोडीटिज एक्ट लागू करता है वह एक बार कहेगा मैं भेजे दे रहा हूं तुम जा कर निपटते रहना । यह एकदम तलवार है, व्यापारियों के सिर पर यह तलवार लटकती रहती है । व्यापारियों का पसा बंधा हुआ है 10 रुपये, बीस रुपये, 50 रुपये, 1000 रुपये महीना जिसकी जैसी हैसियत है जितना चाहो बेचा करो । जब उस कर्मचारी को व्यापारी यह कह देगा कि उतना नहीं दे पाऊंगा या कम दूंगा या नहीं दूंगा, उसी दिन उसका चालान हो जाता है । फुटकर व्यापारियों का चालान तो होता है । हम से हमारे नगर के अनेक व्यापारियों ने कहा कुशवाहा जी हम लोग तो किसी के यहां से माल ले आते हैं थोक वालों के यहां से माल ले आते हैं तो हमारा तो यह रोज चालान करता है लेकिन फैक्टरियों में मिलावट हो रही है क्या आज तक किसी फैक्टरी का भी चालान हुआ है ? बात बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि कांग्रेस, कंट्रोल और करप्शन इन तीनों का चोली दामन का साथ है । गांवों में जितने बूथ केप्चर करने वाले हैं, राशन की दुकानें चलाने वाले हैं, कंट्राल का माल बेचने वाले हैं, वह खुद बूथ केप्चरिंग करते हैं नहीं तो बूथ केप्चर करवाते हैं । सारे काम वो करते हैं । सारा काम बिगाड़ने का जितना हो सकता है वो करते हैं । ब्लैक मनी का भी सब से बड़ा कारण यही है । अगर आप कंट्रोल हटा दें तो क्या काला रह जाएगा ? फैक्टरियों का कुछ काला है, रोज उनके दाम बढ़ रहे हैं ? आप केवल किसान का जितना चाहे गला काट लो क्योंकि वह छिपा नहीं सकता है । खसरा खतौनी सब आपके घर में है । कितना खेत है, वह उसको बक्से में बन्द नहीं कर सकता है और कितना अनाज हुआ है यह भी आप अन्दाजा लगाते हो । उससे कहेंगे कि

इतने बीघे में इतना तुम को देना है चाहे हो या न हो । किसान को तो जब आप चाहते हैं मुर्गा बना सकते हैं । दो सौ रुपये क्विंटल भूसा बिक रहा है उस पर कंट्रोल लगाइये न ।

श्री पवन कुमार बांसल (पंजाब) : किसानों के लिए सब कुछ कांग्रेस ने किया है लोक दल ने नहीं किया ।

श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा : मालूम है।

मैया मोरी पांव लागी ।
जीओ बेटा भर सक ।।

कोई सौतेली मां थी किसी की । बेटे ने उसको पाय लागी कहा तो उस ने कहा कि बेटा जीओ । अरे जब तुम जी ही रहे हो तो आशीर्वाद देना ही पड़ता है, वरना मैं कब चाहती हूं कि जिओ ।

आप एक भी ऐसा काम नहीं बता सकते कि जिससे किसान को जिंदा रखने का उपाय आपने किया हो । जितना आप कर रहे हैं वह हमारे ऊपर कृपा करके नहीं, अपने लिए कर रहे हैं । अगर पानी का इंतजाम नहीं करेंगे तो शहरी बाबू लोगों को क्या खिलायेंगे । अगर यह नहीं पैदा हो सका तो हम कैसे जीयेंगे । वह हमारी मुहब्बत में कर रहे हैं यह कैसे मान लें । आप सब कंट्रोल लगाइये । हम जो माल खरीद रहे हैं उसका भी दाम देख रहे हैं ? 80 रुपये किलो घी है, 35 रुपये किलो सरसों का तेल है और 2 रुपये किलो भूसा है । भूसा दो रुपये किलो और गेहूं का दाम 1 रुपये 73 पैसे किलो । अभी कल घोषणा की है, अभी दाम बढ़ा है । तो मान्यवर, यह हमको मत समझाइये कि आप किसानों का बड़ा फायदा किये हुए हैं । अगर आप चाहते हैं तो किसी दिन एक बहस हो जाए हम एक एक बात बतायेंगे कि आपने क्या किया । मान्यवर, सारे अनर्थ की जड़ जो है वह कंट्रोल है । लेकिन आप मान नहीं सकते क्योंकि आप पर तो दूसरा भूत सवार है । जब भूत सवार हो तो कंट्रोल जहां रहेगा वहां पर करप्शन रहेगा, दलाल रहेंगे फिर आप कहां तक कंट्रोल कर सकेंगे, मैं नहीं समझ पा रहा हूं कि आज की स्थिति में आप कंट्रोल करें (**समय की घंटी**) जब प्रारम्भ ही से कंट्रोल किया जाता है तो यह जोड़कर किया जाता है कि इतना तो मिल ही जाएगा । कोई कंट्रोल का दुकानदार नहीं कह सकता कि बिना ब्लैक के बिना किसी गड़बड़ के कोई काम कर पाते हैं तो मान्यवर, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि कम से कम मिलावट अगर रोकनी है तो कुछ फैक्ट्रियों में जहां से माल बनता है, बड़ी बड़ी फैक्ट्रियां, डालडा की फैक्ट्री है और सब हैं इनका चालान करवाइये जांच करवाइये तब पता चलेगा । वहां कोई जांच नहीं करता है जिसको जांच करने के लिए भेजते हैं वह पूजा पा जाता है, मामला खत्म । मान्यवर, एक कथा कहकर मैं खत्म कर रहा हूं । एक राजा था उसका एक कर्मचारी बड़ा घूसखोर था तो उसको बुलाया गया और कहा कि तुम जाओ तुम बहुत बदमाश हो तुमको नौकरी नहीं मिलेगी । उसने कहा कि सरकार कुछ तो दे दीजिए नहीं तो हम मर जायेंगे खाये पीये बिना । हम कसम खाते हैं कि कुछ नहीं करेंगे । राजा ने कहा कि ठीक है इसको नदी के किनारे लहरें गिनने के लिए भेज दो । उसको नदी के किनारे भेज दिया गया कि लहरें गिना करो । दिन भर में वह खसरा खतौनी लेकर बैठ गया नदी के किनारे और लगा लहरें गिनने । जो जहाज आये, कहता कि क्या कर रहे हो तो कहता था कि राजा ने कहा है कि लहरें गिनों और इन्हीं लहरों के हिसाब से तुम्हें टैक्स लगेगा । नतीजा यह हुआ कि हर जहाज उस रास्ते से जाने वाला उसको घूस देकर आगे बढ़ता था । उसकी रोजी बनती रही । तो आप कितने भी कानून बनाइये या बना रहे हैं उनका ईमानदारी से पालन नहीं हो रहा है न होगा (**...समय की घंटी**) मान्यवर, इस देश में अकाल तो आ ही रहा है लेकिन एक चीज का परमानेन्ट अकाल है और शायद इस अकाल से छुट्टी हम को नहीं मिल रही है और वह है ईमान का अकाल । चूंकि सरकार का ही ईमान खटाई में है तो दूसरों के ईमान का क्या ठिकाना कि उसके इंतजाम में कितने ईमान का अकाल नहीं होगा इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ आपसे छुट्टी लेता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि छोटे व्यापारियों पर लटकती तलवार को न चलाकर बड़े

[श्री रामनरेश कुशवाहा]

बड़े व्यापारियों, थोक व्यापारियों और कारोबारेदारों पर चलाएंगे तब हम मानेंगे कि आप कुछ करना चाहते हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर यह एसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट के एक्सटेंशन की बात है तो मैं इसके पक्ष में हूं। अभी जो हमारे देश की हालत है जिस ढंग का भयंकर अकाल है और जिस तरह से बाढ़ की विभीषिका है उसमें न सिर्फ इस बात की जरूरत है कि एसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट रहना चाहिए बल्कि इसको मजबूत करने की जरूरत है और इसे मजबूत किया जाये। हमको आश्चर्य है कि मंत्री महोदय ने इस पहलू पर ध्यान नहीं दिया कि हम कैसे इसको और मजबूत करें। हमारा ख्याल है कि इस एक्ट को अगर हम देखें कि यह काम कर रहा है या नहीं तो बड़ी निराशा होती है कि शायद जितने भी एक्ट हमारे देश में हैं उन सब में सबसे ज्यादा बुरा हाल इस एक्ट का है। यहां तक कि स्मगलिंग में भी कहा जाता है कि पांच से दस प्रतिशत तक टोटल स्मगलिंग का केस वह पकड़ पाते हैं, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ही अगर कालाबाजारी और प्राफिटियरिंग को अपने विभाग के अंदर कोई ऐसी स्टडी करवाते तो पता लगता कि एक प्रतिशत क्या, आधा परसेंट को भी जो टोटल मुनाफाखोरी होती है, उसको यह एक्ट पकड़ने में अक्षम है, या यह पकड़ नहीं पाता है। अगर इस एक्ट का उद्देश्य था दाम घटाना, तो निर्विवाद रूप में यह असफल हो गया और फिर यह जितने आदमियों को केस में पकड़ते हैं, अगर उनको सजा दिलाने की बात रहे तो और भी नैगिलिजिबल संख्या उनकी हो जाती है और अगर फिर हम यह देखें कि जिन लोगों को पकड़ा जाता है, तो उनमें जो बड़े-बड़े व्यापारी हैं, होलसेलर हैं, उनको तो पकड़ा ही नहीं जाता है। और वह पकड़े भी कैसे जाएं।

मंत्री महोदय तो कहते हैं कि कंज्यूमर कानून नहीं पैदा किया जाए, तो हम लोग कंज्यूमर कानूनों को पैदा करें और आप लोग उसी मुनाफाखोर के यहां पार्टी खाएं, डिनर खाएं, तो यह दोनों काम कैसे साथ-साथ चलेंगे, बोलिए।

इसमें कोई एक दफा लगा दीजिए जिससे मंत्री लोग, राजनीतिक लोग डिनर नहीं खायें, मुनाफाखोरों के यहां। अगर ऐसी क्लाज हो जाए तो कुछ विश्वास भी होगा कि कुछ होने वाला है। लेकिन आप उन्हीं के यहां खाते हैं, उन्हीं से दोस्ती रखते हैं, तो फिर क्या होगा? नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि आपकी पालिसी कुछ ऐसी है, जिसके चलते मुनाफाखोरी बढ़ती है। जैसे जब कम उत्पादन का साल होता है, तब आप इम्पोर्ट भी कम कर देते हैं। अब जब मालूम हुआ कि इस साल बुरा साल होने वाला है, तब आपने एडिबल आयल का उत्पादन कम देख कर के इम्पोर्ट भी कम करना शुरू किया, तो और भी चीजों की कमी होगी और तब मुनाफाखोरी और बढ़ेगी ही, यह भी दूसरी चीजों के बारे में कहा जा सकता है।

एक बात की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा कि अगर टोटल केस जो आप टोटल एसेंशियल कमोडिटीज के अंडर या अभी तक तो कंज्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट, वह तो अभी बहुत सी जगह लागू भी नहीं हुआ--तो अगर उसमें देखें कि कितना सामान आपने पकड़ा है, तो जितना सामान आप बर्बाद करते हैं, उसका दसवांश हिस्सा भी आप इस एक्ट के जरिए से नहीं पकड़ते हैं।

मेरे पास कृषि मंत्रालय का पत्र है कि तीन वर्ष के अंदर—1982, 1983 और 1984 में 18 लाख टन गल्ले की बर्बादी हुई हमारे एफ०सी०आई० के गोडाऊन वगैरह के अंदर। तीन वर्ष में अगर 18 लाख टन जाता है इसमें, तो आप कितना पकड़ पाते हैं, सो हमको बता दीजिए?

तो जितना सड़ जाता है सामान, अगर उसका दसवांश भी आप चोरी में नहीं पकड़ते हैं, तो इस एक्ट को रखने से क्या फायदा होता है? हमारे ख्याल में एक्ट का एक्सटेंशन करने की जरूरत थी। हम चाहते हैं कि जो होलसेल व्यापारी हैं उनको मुख्य रूप से पकड़ा जाए और अगर आप यह कह सकेंगे, तो वह प्राइस को कंट्रोल करने में बड़ा सुविधाजनक काम होगा। (समय की घंटी) जो फैक्ट्री में चीजें बनती हैं उनके ऊपर इसे लागू करें।

अब जो ट्रायल का सिस्टम है, उसमें हमारा यह भी ख्याल है कि प्रावधान किया

जाए पी०आर०पी०पी० के अंडर की ब्लैकमार्केटिंग के केस में एंटिसिपेट्री बेल में कम से कम एक साल के लिए अभी जो स्थिति है हमारे देश की सूखे और अकाल की उसमें एंटिसिपेट्री बेल वाली क्लाज को आप अमैंड कर दीजिए और ट्रायल जो है, सो समरी ट्रायल हो, उसकी आप अभी व्यवस्था कीजिए ।

श्री एच०के०एल० भगत : उसमें यह चीज है। यह जो बेल के बारे में सजेस्ट कर रहे हैं इसमें वही है, एंटिसिपेट्री बेल नहीं है। समरी ट्रायल है इस एक्ट में।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : हमने कहा कि किसी केस में यह जो लोग हैं, इनको एंटिसिपेट्री बेल नहीं मिले उसका प्रावधान इसमें होना चाहिए ।

दूसरी बात—जो कमेटी वगैरह बनाने की बात आई है, मैं उसके पक्ष में हूं, लेकिन एक बात जरूर कहना चाहूंगा । आन्ध्र की सरकार के साथ बहुत खिलाफ हो सकते हैं, हमारी भी कोई लेना देशम की सरकार से कोई दोस्ती नहीं है, लेकिन एक काम उन्होंने अच्छा किया है : वह ग्रीन कार्ड का जो सिस्टम उन्होंने किया है, गरीब तबके के जो लोग हैं, उनको दो रुपये किलो चावल दें, कम से कम इस अकाल के वक्त में तो आप इतनी दया कीजिए कि दो रुपये किलो गल्ला दीजिए । यह राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कीजिए ।

आप कहते हैं कि आपने राज्य सरकारों को खत लिखा है । . . . क्या आप सिर्फ क्लर्क हैं यहां से चिट्ठी लिखते हैं कि यह कीजिए, वह कीजिए । यह क्लर्क का काम छोड़िए, जिम्मेवारी लीजिए और देश के नागरिकों को बचाने की जिम्मेदारी आपके ऊपर आनी चाहिए क्योंकि आपके पास सब से बड़ा साधन है, इसलिए इसे आपको करना चाहिए ।

मैं यह भी कहूंगा कि राज्यपाल के स्तर से लेकर ब्लाक से नीचे तक इस तरह की कमेटी बने । अभी तक भी आपने रूलज फ्रेम नहीं की हैं । फंडामेंटल प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट के मातहत इसको करना चाहिए । डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल में जो रिट्रेंचमेंट कमेटी बनने वाली थी वह भी अभी तक नहीं बनी है, उसके बारे में हम आपसे कहेंगे कि वह आप करें ? विजिलेंस कमेटी का आपने खत वगैरह जरूर दिया है लेकिन वह सर्वदलीय जो होनी चाहिये वह बन नहीं पा रही है । इसलिए इस काम को तुरन्त करना चाहिए । इसको देखते हुए ताकि हम इसको रोकने में कामयाबी हासिल करें । आखिरी बात हम कहेंगे आपके दिल्ली में भी दूसरे शहरों की बात छोड़ दीजिए, हम लोग गरीबों को राशन नहीं दे पाते हैं क्योंकि उनके पास कार्ड नहीं हैं । अगर मंत्री महोदय कहें या किसी एक को तैनात करें तो हम दिखला दें इसी शहर में जो मटिया मजदूर हैं, जो रिक्शा चलाने वाले हैं उन लोगों के पास राशन कार्ड नहीं हैं । लेकिन आज हम जो कि चार हजार, पांच हजार या दस हजार सेलरी पाने वाले हैं या जो लाखों रुपया महीने में मुनाफा कमाते हैं उनको जरूर राशन सप्लाई कर देते हैं, वे सुपर मार्केट में चले जाते हैं और दूसरी जगहों पर चले जाते हैं, लेकिन गरीबों के लिए राशन नहीं है । इसलिए हम आपसे कहेंगे कि इस बात का भी इंतजाम कीजिए जिससे कि उनको भी राशन कार्ड और सुविधा दिला सकें ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपना वक्तव्य समाप्त करता हूं । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The original Bill was introduced in 1955. It was amended in 1982. I was because of this Bill that the interests of the consumers were protected. As a result of this Bill, procurement was made from the growers, and the interests of the growers were also protected. I congratulate the Government and I should say that such Bills by which both the consumers' and the growers' interests are proteceted should always be brought in by the Government.

Sir, the Bill is a simple one, in the sense that the Act promulgated in 1982 is going to expire in September, 1987. We want that this should be extended up to 1992. In that way, it is a simple Bill. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister, confining myself to the Bill alone, why, number one, he has brought this Bill again for a fixed period and why this Bill is not made permanent on the Statute Book. It is obvious that in our country

[Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto]

the limited resources availability at our hands does not permit us to make a very great headway or such a headway in production that it would be commensurate with the growing population of the country. I think that this scarcity will always be there and I would have liked if the hon. Minister would have brought this Bill to make it a permanent feature rather than confining it up to 1992.

I would, however, like to know this. So far as I know, Members here have definately spoken about the difficulties that might be experienced by small, petty traders. But, to my knowledge, this Act has not been harshly used against small business people because other Acts were utilised to meet the requirements, to deal with small petty traders.

But, I would like to ask the Government, on the basis of the statistics available with them, how many cases were tried in a summary way and how many persons were sentenced in a summary trial way during the period, the Bill has been in operation.

I would also like to know from the Government how many special courts were formed since this amendment was made by us and whether those special courts cater to all the districts in a particular area. These are may two small questions and I would like the hon. Minister to react to them. I support the Bill.

Thank you very much.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मुनाफाखोरी, दामों की लूट और जमाखोरी को रोकने के लिए यह दी एसेन्शियल कमोडिटीज (स्पेशल प्रोवीजनस) कण्टीन्यूस बिल, 1987 पूर्व की अवधि बढ़ाने के लिए पेश किया गया है। शुरु में ही जब यह बिधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया था तो सरकार की यह मंशा थी, जैसा कि उसके उद्देश्य और कारणों में दिखाया गया है कि दामों की लूट को रोका जाय, मुनाफाखोरी और जमाखोरी से, जो साधारण तबके के लोग हैं, उसको राहत दिलाई जाय। लेकिन यह जो विधेयक की मंशा थी, वह पूरी नहीं हो पायी क्योंकि बराबर दामों की लूट जारी है, मुनाफाखोरी, जमाखोरी बराबर जारी है और जो उपभोक्ता है, वही इसका सबसे बड़ा शिकार है। इधर जिस प्रकार से दामों की वृद्धि हुई है बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां पर चर्चा की है तिलहन के, दालों के दामों की, सब्जी के दामों की और तेल के साथ-साथ अभी साबुन की जो बड़ी-बड़ी कंपनी हैं, उन्होंने भी साबुन के दामों में भारी वृद्धि कर दी है इसका प्रभाव साधारण तबके के लोगों पर पड़ रहा है।

जब तक यह सस्ती सरकारी गल्ले की दुकान का है, फेयर प्राइस शोप का, इसके बारे में मेरा निवेदन है कि एक तो राशनकार्ड बनवाने में बड़ी दिक्कत होती है और सप्लाई इंसपेक्टर के पास, दुकानदार के पास बार-बार दौड़ना पड़ता है। दिल्ली में ही और बहुत से स्थानों में ऐसे लोग रहते हैं, जिनके पास मकान नहीं है, रिक्शे वाले हैं, ठेले वाले हैं, दूसरे हैं, जब ये लोग फार्म लेकर सप्लाई इंसपेक्टर के पास जाते हैं या दुकानदार के पास जाते हैं, दिल्ली में शायद यह प्रक्रिया है कि दुकानदार से भी निवास का सर्टिफाई कराना होता है, जब मकान का नंबर नहीं होता तो सरकारी अधिकारी राशन-कार्ड बनाने से इंकार कर देते हैं। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है, चूंकि सरकार तो मकानों की व्यवस्था, उनके रहने की व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकी है तो ऐसे गरीब तबके के लोगों के लिए, जो श्रमिक हैं, उनके राशन-कार्ड की व्यवस्था करे, जिससे सस्ती सरकारी दुकानों से उन्हें इस प्रकार का सामान मिल सके।

दूसरा, मेरा निवेदन यह है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं मंत्री जी से कि जो इसमें समरी-ट्रायल होती है, उसके बाद जो अपील है, तो वह अपील जहां पर दाखिल की जाती है क्या वह जुडिशियल अथोरिटी के पास की जाती है? जहां तक मैंने इस विधेयक को पढ़ा है, मे

समझ में आया है कि जो अपील है, वह न्यायपालिका के पास नहीं है ।

तीसरा, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं, इसमें जो स्पेशल कोर्ट की व्यवस्था की गयी है, तो यह व्यवस्था अब तक कितने जिलों में हो चुकी है ? सारे मुल्क में शायद 407 जिले हैं, तो यह जो विशेष न्यायालय हैं, अब तक कितने जिलों में स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं ? यहां से बहुत से निदेश आपके जाते हैं राज्य-सरकारों के पास और राज्य सरकारें उन निदेशों को जिले के अधिकारी या आपूर्ति अधिकारी के पास भेज देती हैं, लेकिन उनका अनुपालन नहीं होता है । केवल चिट्ठी लिखने से लोगों को राहत नहीं मिलने वाला है । इस संबंध में मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं अभी हाल ही में पिछले दस दिन के अंदर, जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, दो निदेश राज्य सरकारों के पास आपने भेजे हैं, उनके अनुपालन की क्या व्यवस्था की है ? यदि इनका अनुपालन नहीं होगा तो यह जो विधेयक है, यह जो कानून है, इसकी जो मंशा है, उद्देश्य और कारण दिए हैं, उनको हम कोई पूर्ण नहीं कर पाएंगे ।

अगला मेरा सवाल यह है कि यह जो कन्ज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट अभी पिछले दिसंबर में पारित किया गया था, उसमें इस बात का प्रावधान है कि विभिन्न सरकारों को राज्य-स्तर पर, जिला स्तर पर बहुत सी ऐसी समितियां बनानी होंगी, जिसमें उपभोक्ताओं की भागीदारी होती, तो इस सिलसिले में सरकार की ओर से इस प्रकार की समितियां बनवाने में उसका अनुपालन कराया गया या नहीं कराया गया ?

अन्त में, मेरा आपसे एक विशेष निवेदन है, चूंकि हमारे देश की कम से कम 80 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या कहीं बाढ़ से प्रभावित है, कहीं सूखे से प्रभावित है, उनके लिए मेरी जानकारी में कहीं पर राहत-कार्य नहीं हुआ, घोषणाएं जरूर हुईं कि लगान की माफी होगी, तकावी की माफी होगी या जानवरों के लिए चारे की व्यवस्था की जा रही है, भूसे की व्यवस्था की जा रही है, लेकिन वास्तविक रूप में जो ग्रसित हैं, जो संकट में हैं, उन तक राहत कार्य नहीं पहुंचा है । इसलिए, मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन है कि इस सिलसिले में राज्य-स्तर पर, जिला स्तर पर, ब्लाक स्तर पर, तहसील स्तर पर एक सर्वदलीय समिति बनानी चाहिए । उस सर्वदलीय समिति का काम यह होना चाहिए कि सरकार के जो आदेश हैं, उनका पालन कहां तक होता है, सस्ते गल्ले की जो दुकानें हैं उनसे लोगों को कहां तक राहत मिलती है, यह वह देखें ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मट्टू साहब ने जो एक बात का सुझाव दिया कि केवल 5 वर्ष के लिए ही क्यों इस विधेयक की जिंदगी बढ़ायी जा रही है क्योंकि भ्रष्टाचार आप खत्म कर नहीं सकते, मुनाफाखोरी आप खत्म कर नहीं सकते, दामों की लूट आप खत्म कर नहीं सकते ? जमाखोरों को खत्म करने में सरकार बुरी तरह से असफल रही है । इसलिए यह विधेयक हमारे कानून का एक स्थायी अंग हो जाना चाहिए । आप बार-बार 5 साल के लिए क्यों लाते हैं ? इस पर आपको स्पष्ट आश्वासन देना चाहिए कि इस विधेयक को एक स्थायी विधेयक बनाया जाए । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I must sincerely thank the hon. Members, Shri G. Swaminathan, Shri Suresh Pachouri, Narayan Kar, Shrimati Sudha Vijay Joshi, Shri P. Babul Reddy, Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav I am mentioning their names because the points they made were so many and it will not be possible for me to refer to particular points against their names, Shri Jagesh Desai, Shri V. Gopalsamy, Shri Veershetty Moglappa Kushnoor, Shri Kailash Pati Mishra, Shri Mahendra Mohan Mishra, Shri Ram Naresh Kushawaha, Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto, Shri Chaturanan Mishra and Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya and I think probably, I have missed one name of the hon. Member who has participated in this discussion and I must thank them particularly because cutting across the party lines, they have

[Shri H. K. L. Bhagat]

shown their anxiety for better implementation of the Essential Commodities Act and also expressed their anxiety over the rise in prices, particularly in the edible oils. with the same spirit, not that I agree with every point that has been raised or the focus that has been placed or the perspective in every case, yet I would say that this discussion and debate, so far as I am concerned, has been quite enlightening. Now, one thing is clear that there is complete unanimity in this House that this Bill should be given a further extension of five years. On this, there is unanimity though some hon. Members said, why are you bringing it only for five years? Why don't you bring it on a regular basis, on a permanent basis? Of course, implementation of it has been severely criticised and a number of suggestions have been given but there is complete unanimity that the need for this Act is there and everybody feels this must be passed. Not even a single hon. Member has said that this should not be passed. That shows that there is some utility of this Act though, perhaps, with better implementation the act could be more useful and that is what the hon. Members have felt. It is ture that we have come forward with this Bill for its extension for five years. This Act was made, then entended and so on. I think when the Act was passed in the beginning, probably, our effort from the beginning has been to make every effort to be self-sufficient in regard to essential commodities particularly, the food items and therefore, we had started from the beginning for an Act for a certain period. We went on tightening as the things appeared. When my Ministry decided that this Act should be further extended for five years. we were in a different situation. Now, this is my view. I don't propose to get into that. I do not wish to shift responsibility. the responsibility that the Central Government has to take we will take. I will not run away from it nor do I wish to make it a Centre versus States issue. Whatever they have to do they do and whatever I have to do, I have to do. We are doing it in cooperation with each other. The State Governments are, by and large, happy with us and as far as I am concerned, we are working in complete cooperation. I wish to say that though this whole country, to my mind.... (*Interruptions*) This is my view. This may not be the view of some hon. Members. But it is my view that we have made tremendous progress during these forty years, particularly in regard to foodgrain production and we became self-sufficient in that. We all... (*Interruptions*) I am not claiming any credit for me or for my Party. This had been the achievement of the whole country—the people, our farmers, our techniques and so on. The result has been... (*Interruptions*) What I am saying is, we have decided to bring this for extension for five years. Actually this Bill right from the beginning, ha been thought of as a temporary measure thinking and hoping that probably a situation, will come when the Indian masses will have larger production less cost of production and availability at lesser prices to the people. That is the final solution. That is what we have been doing. We have gone a great deal in irrigation and other things. But we cannot help feeling so far, even now, we are to a great extent, largely dependent on the rain gods. The situation that existed two months ago is not the situation today. the situation today is certainly much more diffcult because of floods on the one hand and drought on the other. We are facing an unprecedented difficult situation. The fact of the matter is drought has been existing in some States or other for the last some years. We had the same problem. But because of the foodgrain production, because of the Green Revolution we had in the country, because we had stocks in the country we could manage the situation I can assure the hon. Member... (*Interruptions*) Please do not interrupt me. I am not used to interruption and I do not interrupt. What I am respectfully submitting, with humility, for your consideration is that there was a time when we had such a bad famine in Bengal. During these forty years all of us together faced the situation. I wish to say that we have enough foodgrain stocks; we have more wheat; rice I think we are still in a position to face it; and sugar also is more this time. And as far as these three cor

modities are concerned, I want to assure the hon. Members that we will be able to face the drought situation. The requirements of the States have been met and will be met. There are difficulties, sometimes in transport, sometimes in sending it, and so on. The difficulties have been discussed with the States. I have the letters with me. I do not want to claim any credit for me. I have the letters from the various State Governments. Today, it is not a question of any Party. This is a problem for the whole nation. As a matter of fact, today..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: ...Why people are dying...?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I do not want to leave any point untouched. What I am saying is, today, in the States, we have Governments of all major political parties. You have the Communist CPI-M, CPI Government, you have BJP Partnership Government, Janata Government and Lok Dal Government. Almost all the major political parties have Governments in one part or the other of the country. Now, as I said we cooperate with them. I get problems everyday. People come saying, "We want more rice, more wheat, more edible oil" Regarding the problems of Tripura, I had discussions with the Tripura Chief Minister and other Ministers. We have done our best to satisfy them. I say generally speaking, the State Governments are quite happy with our efforts to do our best to meet the situation. Therefore, what I am saying is, our job here is to make provision for these food articles and the job of the State Governments is to distribute them. They run the distribution system, the fair-price shops and so on and so forth. It is an endeavour which is cooperative. It is an endeavour between the Central and the State Governments and this is how we go on.

5.00 P.M.

Now, as I said, I will not indulge in any jugglery of figures. I will not try to defend anything unnecessarily. I say what I have to say, not necessarily what you say. The prices of some of the essential commodities have gone high in some cases very high. Edible oil is one example where the prices are very high. In edible oil there is an obvious gap between our production and our requirement. And the drought conditions have made that gap much wider. Not only in regard to this, in regard to other items also, but in edible oils the gap is much wider. Now, what do we do? Actually what we do is we try to make it up by imports. One honourable Member said, there was less production, yet we went in for lesser imports . I would say, sometimes, yes, we have to do that. There was an argument here. The argument was on behalf of farmers, by the Agriculture Ministry. They said, if you right from the beginning import a lot of oil, the result is that the prices of oils would be depressed and the farmer will be the loser. I agree that middlemen should not be allowed. While importing oils, we have to see the condition of indigenous oils and oilseeds. So we do sometimes lesser imports in the beginning and we may increase later on. Sometimes the interests of the farmer and the interests of the consumer also clash. Then we have to strike a balance between them. Sometimes we have to decide to import more to meet a situation. While we began with 8 lakh tonnes, we have come to raise it to 15.75 lakh tonnes. We have to weight the situation and, if necessary, we have to import more. We have already increased our supplies to the public distribution system. Vanaspati supply has also been increased. With regard to vanaspati we feel that the prices are still high. We are considering as to how we can contain those prices or tame those prices. We shall take necessary steps in a day or two when you will see there will be some softening trend. I keep my fingers crossed. Some softening trends in edible oils have started. We have written to the State Governments, we have written to the forward market Commissioners: Go the whole hog against speculators, against those who are doing speculation in oil. Speculation is legally forbidden in it. We have written to the State Chief Ministers to proceed with dehoarding campaign. We have reduced the edible oils stock limits of the dealers in their godowns. A number of steps have been taken. A number of steps have been suggested and some steps have been taken. I won't say that the implementation of the Act is

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as good as it should be. I won't say that the public distribution system has gone everywhere it should go. No; it has to improve and expand, it has to go more and more into rural areas. The information that is given to me on paper by the State Governments is the information on which I have to rely. You have your own persuation powers. Whatever you are saying here, you try to plead with your State Governments also. However, it is not correct to say that there is no implementation of the Act, that poor people in a place like Delhi do not have ration-cards. With due respect I may submit, none of you knows Delhi more than I do. I know Delhi more than you do. There are thousands and thousands of rikshaw-pullers who have ration-cards; there are thousands and thousands of cart-pullers who have ration-cards....

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय मैं आपको दस नाम दे सकता हूं ।

श्री राम अवदेश सिंह (बिहार): बिना पैसे लिये कार्ड नहीं बनता ।

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I won't deny it, I won't dispute it. What you say is not wrong. There may be people, there are people, I agree with you, who have not got cards, the poorer sections, some temporary labour; they do not have cards. We are still trying and we give them cards, to those who have not got दस नहीं आप मुझे एक हजार, दो हजार, दस हजार नाम दे दीजिए । एक-एक आदमी मुझे बताइये, एरिया बताइये हम सब का सर्वे करायेंगे और फौरन राशन कार्ड देंगे । There is no question of even one man being left. मैंने राज्य सरकारों को लिखा है कि आप राशन कार्ड दीजिए एम० एल० ए० की वैरीफिकेशन पर, पंचायत के जो प्रेजीडेंट हैं उनकी वेरीफिकेशन पर, एम० पी० की वैरीफिकेशन पर उनको राशन कार्ड दीजिए । यह सरकार चाहती है कि देश में कोई भी आदमी बिना राशन कार्ड के न रहे । हमारे पास अनाज है । हम सब को अनाज देने को तैयार हैं । मैंने राज्य सरकारों को लिखा है कि अपने इलाकों में दुकानें बढ़ाइये । अगर व्हीकल की जरुरत है तो व्हीकल लीजिए । हमने कह दिया है और दे देंगे । सरकार की तजवीज पर उसको करने के लिए तैयार हैं । इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आप विजिलेन्स को ही ले लीजिये । भारत सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को पत्र लिखा है । राज्यों में विरोधी दल की भी सरकारें हैं ।

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, the honourable Minister was speaking in English so far and suddenly he has switched over to Hindi. We were able to follow him when he was speaking English.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: All right. I shall revert to English. Now, let it be partially in English and partially in Hindi since the translation is there.

Now, the question of vigilance is there. The Ministry and myself have written to the State Governments that they should have vigilance committees for every fair price shop. We have suggested vigilance committees in the rural and urban areas fair price shops. The State Governments also have these vigilance Committees. Some honourable Members have said that in some of the States they have made it a one-party committee. If they have done it, It is totally wrong and I shall write to them again that the vigilance committees should not be one-party committees, should not be all-party committees also, but they should be genuine committees of all the citizens including political persons. This is what I want. If anything wrong has been done, I am prepared to rectify it and it is for the State Governments to do this and this is very important. Now, my view is that food, air, a matter or essential commodity, is not a matter on which anybody can have a partisan consideration. I am not going to be partisan on this.

Now, Sir, some honourable Members have said that some small people for some small offences are punished. Well, it

wrong and what they have said is correct. For example, somebody is supposed to keep a stock of 500 bags and he can have two bags more or less. But he may bribe some official and keep more. I do not rule out these things. These things, such an exploitation, are there due to the moral calibre and moral conduct of human beings and because of this such things are possible. Therefore, somebody suggested that we should have some guidelines. We have decided also that we should go into the guidelines issued by the various State Governments. Gujarat, for example, has issued guidelines which are good. Other State also have issued guidelines. So, if such guidelines are wanted, we shall do that also. We shall also further examine the other question. If you feel that some more amendments are necessary, we shall bring forward those amendments also, if necessary. Somebody said that it should be tightened. I think it was the honourable Member, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, who said that it should be further tightened. We shall see and if there are any mistakes and any deficiencies and any lacunae, we shall come to you for those amendments. We shall consider whether we need to bring this on a permanent basis. It all depends on the situation. I will tell you, and you will appreciate, that our problem two months back was quite different and our problem then was what we should do with our overstocks of wheat. So, we said that against a ration card anybody can draw any quantity. The quantity restriction was removed and we had a given a number of illustrations. Some orders were withdrawn and some licences were withdrawn. This was two months back when we wanted to take some steps to see how we could dispose of our overstocks of wheat. Now the situation is somewhat changing and we have to be careful. We are self-sufficient and we are confident that we would be able to face the situation so far as the foodgrains are concerned. We have started taking action. We have not merely started taking action—you ask your own State Governments because they have approached us during these past few days—and we have passed orders and also we have seen things moving. Now, about drought-effected States, I want to say one thing. We have enough foodgrains and enough foodgrains are available and for want of foodgrains we will not let anybody suffer in any part of the country...

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Sir,...

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: ...including Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Sir, I want to put one question to the honourable Minister. Mr. Minister, you have given us an assurance with regard to these things that there will be no shortage. You have said that the wheat stock is comfortable. I would like to know whether the same comfortable position is there with regard to rice also?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I am talking about wheat and I am not talking about rice. So far as wheat is concerned, we have much more. Rice also is adequate and there is no problem with regard to rice and we will be able to provide rice also.

Now, Sir, I am not going into the question of figures and I do not propose to do any jugglery with figures with regard to the prices. The prices have risen; I know they have risen. Now the prices of vegetables have risen. Somebody said that if Mrs. Bhagat were to be here, she would appreciate the feelings of the Members and she would know it. Of course, she knows better than myself and she knows the pinch of the kitchen because she makes the purchases and I do not make the purchases. I know that the prices of vegetables and fruits have risen. The prices of pulses also have risen. I think the Ministry of Agriculture has taken a decision to ask NAFED to import pulses so that we can have more pulses. Some hon. Members asked as to what is happening to consumer protection. Some Members said that the Act was passed one year before. The Act was passed during the last session. Some hon. Members said that we have not even made the rules. I can assure you that the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry is not such that it will not make rules. The rules have been made and laid on the Table of this House also. The Central Consumer Protection Council and Councils have already been formed in

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a number of States. In some other States they are in the process of being formed. So far as Grievance Redressal Forum is concerned, we need a Judge and some other people. So, the whole thing is in progress. It is not as fast as it ought to be. But the whole thing is on the move. We are chasing it. Let that machinery be set up. It is a big chain. It is not only going to be Inspectors and all that who can file a complaint. Every consumer in India has been given the right to file a complaint. You have passed this Act. It is a matter of credit for you also.

Some hon. Members raised the question of supply of wheat to flour mills. We have said that we would give them 50 per cent wheat. We are adopting a bit of cautious attitude. It is not that wheat, rice and other things are available only with the Food Corporation of India. We don't procure everything that is grown. We procure a part of it. The case of Bombay Flour Mill was mentioned. I have to adopt a certain policy. It is not that Bombay Flour Mill cannot get wheat in the open market. We have decided in principle that at this moment we shall give them 50 per cent because so far as their own production is concerned, there is no price control. We are giving this 50 per cent only as a matter of caution. This is for the time being. We have to take an overall view of the whole thing. Right from the procurement stage to the stage of supply to consumers, our distribution system is a maligned system. There is political criticism. People criticise it. Even in my own home, my wife says: "What kind of Minister are you? Why are the oil prices going up?" I told her that the indigenous oils are not under control and, therefore, the prices are rising. I asked her as to why she does not use Palmolein oil. She said that the distribution system people say that it is bad. I told her that it is bad. This is a unique thing. It helps the producer as well as the consumers. If there is more production of wheat and rice and if the Government procurement system were not there, farmers would not get what they are getting now and the consumers would not get them at the prices at which they are getting now. This distribution system and procurement system helps the farmers and the consumers of India. You may accept it or not. It is a unique system. There may be lacunae and defects in it. You may be able to criticise it on the point that the expenses of Food Corporation of India are more. But the basic fact is that we have a distribution system 3,37,000 Fair Price Shops. Some of them may not be working. Some of them may not be opening. Some of them may not be available. But this is a system which helps the farmers as well as the consumers and we feel proud about it.

The hon. Member, Shri S. P. Malaviya, asked whether I have asked the State Governments. Yes, I have asked them that they should proceed under the Act and start dehoarding drives. What is it? There are certain stock limits fixed for certain things, viz., pulses, edible oils, etc. They should start dehoarding campaigns and so on. These drives have shown some results. You are reading about them in the newspapers. There are newspaper articles as far as the trend is concerned. I keep my fingers crossed. The Prime Minister himself has written to all the Chief Ministers about it apart from my writing. As far as the sword on the small traders is concerned, I have already said that we have proposed to issue some kind of guidelines and so on. One question which has been raised more often is about the quality coming from the FCI godowns. I think, one hon. Member, probably, hon. Mr. Kailash Pati Mishra said that the whole stock in the FCI godowns is totally rotten and even the animals do not eat it. And this is an over-statement. I do not say that all the stock lying in the FCI godowns is good...

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र : मैंने पूरे स्टाक के बारे में नहीं कहा लेकिन हर गोदाम के अन्दर ऐसे कुछ पोरशन हैं ...

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : आप मेरी बात सुनेंगे जरा। मैं नहीं कह सकता कि किसी भी गोदाम में ऐसा स्टाक नहीं है जो बिलकुल खराब हो सकता हो। आप हिन्दी में बोले हैं इसलिए मैं भी हिन्दी में बोल रहा हूं। जहां तक लोगों को स्टाक देने का प्रश्न है यह

इन्तजाम किया गया है कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के प्रतिनिधि चेक कर के लें, ज्वाइंट सेम्पल ल, हर एक बोरी को चेक कर सकते हैं, अगर माल गलत मिलता है तो वापिस कर सकते है। कुल अफसरों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की है। मैं आज आपको दावत देता हूं कि किसी जगह गलत स्टाक गया हो, गलत किस को करते हैं, जो प्रिवेंशन आफ फूड एडल्ट्रेशन एक्ट में व्हीट और राइस का एक स्टेंडर्ड है उस फिक्स्ड स्टडर्ड के खिलाफ अगर कोई शिकायत लाता है तो हम कायवाही करते हैं। जहां पर रदी स्टाक पड़ा हुआ है वह लोगों के इस्तेमाल के लिए हम नहीं देते हैं वह दूसरी चीजों के लिए जहां इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है उसको इस्तेमाल करने की बात होती है। जैसे कि माननीय सदस्य ने शरू में कहा कि रूरल एरियाज में दकानें खोलने की ज्यादा जरूरत है। उसका क्राइटेरिया यह है कि जहां दो हजार की आबादी है उस हिसाब से दकानें खोलो जाएं। माननीय सस्दय ने यह भी कहा कि दो हजार की आबादी पर दकान खोली जाती है लेकिन बीच में कई सौ लोग होते हैं जिन में आप अपनी मरजी करते हैं। दकानें ज्यादा खोली जाएं वर्त्तमान दकानों को ठीक किया जाए उन पर विजिलेंस रखी जाए स्टाक टाइम पर दिया जाए, चीजें भेजी जाएं, डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम का जो इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर है वह दिया जाए। हमारे कुछ सदस्यों ने कहा कि आप खाली पत्र लिखते हैं राज्य सरकारों को। मेरा काम है पत्र लिखना और मैं पत्र लिखता हूं। मैं केवल पत्र ही नहीं लिखता हूं बल्कि मैं और मेरी साथी गलाट नबी आजाद खास तौर पर हिन्दुस्तान की हर स्टेट को विजिट कर चके हैं और हमने वहां बैठ कर के बातचीत की है बहुत सी जगहों पर गोदाम भी देखें है, वितरण प्रणाली को भी देखा। मैं खुद सेटिसफाइड नहीं हूं। जिस तरह से वक इस सिस्टम को करना चाहिये उस तरह से नहीं कर रहा हैं मैं इस बात को मानता हूं। लोगों के हित में जिस तरह से सरकार करना चाहती है उस तरह का फायदा लोगों को नहीं पहुंचा, उतना फायदा नहीं पहुंचता जितना पहुंचना चाहिये लेकिन फिर भी सिस्टम बहुत अच्छा काम करता है लोगों को फायदा होता है। सिस्टम को बिलकुल होलसेल में यह कह देना कि ऐसा सिस्टम है जो बिलकुल खत्म होने लायक है यह कहना ठीक नहीं है। इसमें चोरी, ब्लैक मार्किटिंग, एडल्ट्रेशन सब चीजें है। मैं ने कभी यह क्लेम नहीं किया और न सरकार यह क्लेम करती है कि ऐसा नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमने एक जबरदस्त कानून बनाया है, जो कानून हमने कंज्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन का बनाया है इससे ज्यादा अच्छा कानून दुनियां में नहीं है, इससे बेटर कानून नहीं है। दूसरे कानूनों को भी हमने बदला लेकिन जब तक इस देश में एक जबरदस्त, जानदार और रिसपोंसिबल कंज्यूमर मूवमेंट गांव से ले कर नेशनल लेवल तक नहीं बनेगा तब तक यह सवाल हल नहीं होगा। आज लोगों को खड़ा करने की जरूरत है। आप कहेंगे कि सरकार क्या कर रही है। मैं नहीं चाहता यह सरकारी मूवमेंट बने। यह देश के लिए दुर्भाग्य होगा अगर सरकार कंज्यूमर मूवमेंट चलाए न सरकारी मूवमेंट चलेगा न बनेगा न बनना चाहिये और न चलना चाहिये यह लोगों का अपना मूवमेंट होना चाहिये अपना आन्दोलन होन चाहिये। हमने एक्ट बनाया है, आपकी भी जिम्मेदारी है मेरी भी जिम्मेदारी है। हम सब मिल कर के इस मूवमेंट को चलाएं। एक एक दकान को चैक करें। मैं यहां आपको एक दूसरे मुल्क की मिसाल देता हूं। वहां पर एक कम्पनी ने अपने सोप के दाम बढ़ा दिये। एक छोटे से गांव के लोगों ने यह तय किया कि उस कम्पनी का सोप नहीं खरीदेंगे तो एक ही हफ्ते में उस कम्पनी को घुटने टेकने पड़े और कीमतें वापिस लेनी पड़ीं। इस तरह का मूवमेंट हमें अपने देश में बनाना चाहिये और उसकी जिम्मेदारी चुने रूए मैम्बरों पर है, आप और हम इस जिम्मेदारी का पूरा करेंगे तो इससे लोगों में कांशसनेस आएगी। इसमें मीडिया का भी यूज होना चाहिए लोगों को कांशस करना चाहिए ? कुछ कार्यक्रम हमने बनाए हैं लेकिन उन से मेरी तसल्ली नहीं है। अभी मीडिया के यूज का भी हम सोच रहे हैं कि जो कोई चोरी में पकड़ा जाए या कोई बड़ी फर्म

[श्री एच०के०एल० भगत]

एडल्टेशन में पकड़ी जाए तो उसका प्रचार रेडियो और दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से होना चाहिये ताकि लोगों को पता लगे। इस पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं। इस तरह से बहुत से पाइंट आपने कहे हैं जिन में जाना है। यह नहीं कि मैं उन से एग्री नहीं करता हूं, यह बात अलग है कि मन्त्री हूं लेकिन मैं जमीन पर रहने वाला कार्यकर्ता हूं। लेकिन मैं जमीन में पोजीशन क्या है इसको समझता हूं। हम आप सब मिलेंगे और जनता का सहयोग लेंगे तब इसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट का अच्छा इम्पलीमेंटेशन हो सकता है और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम भी इम्प्रूव हो सकता है ऐसा मैं मानता हूं। मुझे खुशी है कि आपने सबने इस बिल पर इस कानून पर पूरी सहमति प्रकट की है। चीनी के मामले में यह तो मानते हैं कि 85 लाख टन चीनी इस साल हो रही है पहले से ज्यादा हो रही है इसलिए चीनी के मामले में बहुत ज्यादा दिक्कत हमें उम्मीद है कि नहीं होगी। मैं समझता हूं कि ड्रूट की इस सिचुएशन में डिफीकल्ट सिचुएशन में ड्रूट के बारे में ठोस कदम उठाये गये हैं, जुबानी जमाखर्च नहीं है और इस ड्रूट का डटकर मुकाबला करेंगे। जिन लोगों का, आपका सबका सहयोग मिलेगा तो बहुत ही अच्छा काम होगा।

(व्यवधान) एक सवाल कह लूं कि आप जरूर दीजिए। एक सवाल पूछा गया था कि कितने स्पेशल कोर्ट्स हैं मेरा ध्यान नहीं रहा, मैं बता रहा हूं **(व्यवधान)** जो एक सवाल का जवाब दिया था तो 87 की फिगर मेरे पास पड़ी नहीं हैं कन्वेक्शन दिये 13-5-88 को। उसके बाद सिचुएशन चेंज हुई है कहीं कोर्ट्स कम हुई हैं कहीं बढ़ गई हैं। अलग जिलों की कोर्ट्स को जो रिकमेंडेशन दी गई है उसके डिस्ट्रिक्ट की ओर 13-5-85 में 134 स्पेशल कोर्ट्स थीं, राज्यवार ब्यौरा मेरे पास है। नेटेस्ट पोजीशन मैं मालूम करूंगा, लोक सभा में यह पूछा गया था और पूछने के बाद आपको बता दूंगा। अगर मेम्बर चाहेंगे तो मैं उनको बताऊंगा।

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): May I tell the Minister, your legislation is very good, but the need of the hour is its proper and effective implementation. Kindly ensure it if you can.

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : मैं आपसे सहमत हूं और आपकी तो सलाहें दी हुई मैंने कई मानी हैं। बोलिए मानी हैं कि नहीं मानी हैं। सुधार हुआ कि नहीं हुआ। आपके कहने से बहुत सी बातें मानी गयी हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I will now put the motion. The question is:

"That the Bill to continue the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, for a further period, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I move: "That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE CINE-WORKERS WELFARE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1987

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Cine-workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the administration of the cine-workers welfare fund, 1981, and there were two such enactments, which required certain changes and from Information Minist